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REPORT OF THE SECOND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COMMISSION/ SECOND EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13 to 16 October 1986)

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The second extraordinary session of the Commission/second extraordinary meeting of the Conference of Ministers was held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13 to 16 October 1986. It was formally opened and presided over by Mrs. Elizabeth Tankeu, Minister of State for the Plan of Cameroon, representing the current Chairman of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission.

2. Opening statements were delivered by Comrade Addis Tedla, member of the Politbureau and the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and Deputy Chairman of the National Committee for Central Planning, the representative of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, the Chairman of the Conference of Ministers, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa, the Executive Secretary of Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Political Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

4. Observers from the following States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission were also present: Australia, Austria, China, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Korea, Mexico, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.

5. Observers from the following States not Members of the United Nations were also present: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Holy See and Switzerland.

6. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Trade Centre (ITC), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations University (UNU), Universal Postal Union

(UPU), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Joint Inspection Unit (JIU).

7. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Commission's terms of reference: African Development Bank (ADB), African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR), African Centre for Solar Energy (ACSE), African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), African Association for Peace and Solidarity (AAPSO), African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre (CAMRDC), Regional Remote Sensing Centre (RRSC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), International Centre for Bantu Civilizations (CICIBA), African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), Eastern and Southern African Trade Bank, African Cultural Institute (ICA), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), Institut des sciences et de technologie appliquées (ISTA), Lake Chad Basin Authority, West and Central African States Ministerial Conference on Maritime Transport (MINCOMAR), African Timber Organization (ATO), Organization of African Unity (OAU), Pan-African News Agency (PANA), Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS), Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys (RECTAS), League of Red Cross Societies, Shelter Afrique, Union of African Railways (UAR), Trans-African Highway Authority (TAHA), Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC), Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU) and West African Clearing House (WACH).

B. AGENDA

8. The extraordinary session adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Review and assessment of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa.

5. Draft Regional Programme of Action for the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle, 1987-1991.

6. Implications of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development for linkages between country programmes and the regional programme under the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle.

7. Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the least developed countries.

8. The problem of technical co-operation in Africa, New approach (NATCAPs).

9. Co-operation between UNDP and ECA concerning the Critical Economic Situation in Africa. Joint Inspection Unit study.

10. Any other business.

11. Adoption of the report.

12. Closure of the meeting.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening addresses

9. In his opening statement, the representative of the Government of Socialist Ethiopia, Comrade Addis Tedla, Member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and Deputy Chairman of the National Committee for Central Planning, welcomed all the participants to Addis Ababa and assured them of the Government's full co-operation for the success of their deliberations.

10. He recalled that the first extraordinary session of the Conference of Ministers had been held barely eight months earlier to finalize Africa's submission to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis. The fact that the second extraordinary session was being convened within the same year was a reflection both of the magnitude of the difficulties confronting the continent and of the commitment of African countries to resolve them.

11. The convening of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa in May-June 1986 and which was in response to the request of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity as a means of sensitizing the international community to Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 (APPER) which they had adopted in July 1985 was another significant event. Africa had demonstrated its solidarity and active participation in the intricate negotiations of the Special Session which adopted the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990. The continent had been able to secure the political willingness of the international

community to support its own efforts. Much more was expected then by way of concrete action by the international community to supplement Africa's efforts to ameliorate the critical economic and social situation and to lay down the foundations of sound development within the framework of APPER and the guidelines of the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA) and the Final Act of Lagos (FAL).

12. In connection with the agenda item on the evaluation of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1980s adopted in 1981, the representative of the Government of Socialist Ethiopia noted that the results obtained so far had not been commensurate with the expectations of the LDCs. The inadequate implementation was mainly attributable to the reluctance of the developed countries to live up to their commitments to the SNPA. He therefore hoped that the meeting would make specific recommendations for effective follow-up and implementation.

13. While African countries had achieved encouraging results in subregional co-operation and favourable conditions were being created for the realization of an African Economic Community by the beginning of the next century, greater efforts were needed in intra-African co-operation and in the effective use of technical assistance particularly in Africa's priority areas.

14. Comrade Addis Tedla urged the meeting to make a close examination of the corrective measures proposed by UNDP in the context of efficient utilization and expansion of UNDP assistance to the African region in the period 1987-1991. It was imperative for the meeting to clearly define the role of participating governments in those undertakings, which hitherto had been marginal. UNDP's efforts and initiatives in promoting co-operation among African countries were laudable. UNDP also deserved appreciation for drawing the attention of the international community to the important issue of human resources development and for according it high priority within its programme. He stressed the importance of the orientation of the regional programme to priority sectors and the idea of maximizing its impact through focusing on limited areas, and indicated that in the case of Ethiopia, 46 and 42 per cent of the total IPF were allocated for human resources and rural development, respectively.

15. He observed that the African economic scene now had a positive side due to the recent improved weather conditions and appropriate Government measures that had contributed to better food and agricultural production. That was particularly true of Ethiopia. The improved weather conditions were expected to enhance the effective implementation of the Government's medium-term recovery plan under way at that time. The plan which was in close conformity with APPER emphasized first and foremost increased food production, as well as measures to combat the adverse effects of drought and the acceleration of the process of resettlement of the rural population with the central objectives of promoting a more rational land use, increased production and efficient provision of basic services.

16. He concluded that, given the region's immense human and natural resources, a great deal could be achieved at national, subregional and regional levels if appropriate policies were adopted. The serious problems confronting Africa should thus be viewed in the light of its rich potentialities and the strong commitment of its governments to socio-economic development. Accordingly, he charged the meeting with the task of probing further into the complex development situation in the region.

17. He then declared the meeting open.

18. In his message, the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity said that the second extraordinary meeting of the Conference of Ministers was the first stage in the process of working out and taking steps to mobilize resources and implement the Programme of Action. The adoption of the Priority Programme for the accelerated implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos formed part of attempts to find a solution to the crisis and to promote the long-lasting development of the African continent. In that respect, the efforts of Africans should be supplemented by the support of the international community which shared the concerns of African countries.

19. During the first extraordinary meeting, Africa had committed itself to financing 64 per cent of its Programme and had called upon the international community for support.

20. There was a need to get Africans to understand that the Programme of Action was their creation and that it should mainly be implemented by them.

21. He welcomed the measures taken by the United Nations Secretariat which had set up a Steering Committee of the United Nations system responsible for mobilizing, co-ordinating and monitoring the support of the international community in the implementation of the Programme. He also hailed the efforts made by UNDP in mobilizing resources and the assistance it had provided during the just ended decade. Given the limited resources provided under the Fourth Programming Cycle 1987-1991, which coincided with the implementation of the Programme of Action, the available resources should be concentrated on priority sector. UNDP, ECA and other executing agencies should increase their assistance in order to strengthen the capacity of African States to programme, implement and manage their projects.

22. In conclusion, the current Chairman of the OAU expressed his profound gratitude to UNDP and UNESCO for their firm and substantive support in the preparation of the first African Congress of Scientists to be held in Brazzaville in June 1987 and for mobilizing the international community.

23. During her speech, Her Excellency, the Chairperson of the second extraordinary meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers expressed satisfaction at the relentless efforts that the Commission and its Executive Secretary in particular, as well as the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa had been making towards the development of the continent.

24. She recalled that, during the last two years, improved rainfall in Africa had enabled many African countries to produce better outputs in the field of agriculture. Similarly, the alleviation of tensions on the main financial markets due to the relative lowering of interest rates should favour an economic revival to the benefit of African countries. She stressed that, on the whole, the African economy's growth rate had been much higher than 2 per cent, which was relatively encouraging compared with the period 1980-1984.

25. However, she noted that the economic indicators for growth revealed a rather alarming situation. Thus, in 1985 the rising growth in cereal production and the recovery of agricultural goods for export, like coffee, cocoa, cotton, sugar, tea and tobacco, had coincided with a strong fall in world prices for all the primary products that the continent exported. Thus, in the agricultural field, income from coffee exports had fallen by 13.5 per cent. Similarly, sugar prices had collapsed only to settle at a level which was much lower than the cost of production; in the extractive industries sector another export oriented activity weak demand had seriously affected sales. Prices of certain metals such as copper, nickel and other minerals like bauxite and uranium had fallen drastically because of the excess of supply over demand. The price of petrol had suffered the same fate. Therefore, the extractive industries sector had not been able to contribute to economic recovery in 1985.

26. Therefore, despite a slight improvement in the manufacturing industries' situation with a growth rate of 3.6 per cent, the crisis had remained acute in that sector since production was primarily dependent upon imports of factor inputs and raw materials as well as upon technical assistance from abroad. With the growing shortage of foreign exchange, a number of factories had not been in a position to import factors of production and spare parts needed for their operations, to such an extent that the average usage of production capacity had not gone beyond 25 per cent for most of them; exports of goods and services had only grown by 3.5 per cent while imports had fallen by 2.9 per cent. The fall in export prices had offset the effect of their increase in volume. Similarly, the reduction in the volume of imports had not had the anticipated effect because of the price rise in imported goods. And the foreign exchange reserves of African countries which had increased by $US 2.2 billion had been absorbed by the worsening debt servicing which represented 25 per cent of export returns. She then declared that the year before the trend towards a fall in per capita consumption had held firm after falling back by 3.5 per cent during the period 1982-1984, and that investments had also continued to diminish.

27. The huge external budget deficits recorded in various countries had led to renewed slow-down in capital formation, with a drop of 5 per cent added to that of 3.6 per cent recorded during the period 1980-1984. She added that if one referred to the present trends, the results expected at the end of the year would barely be different from those of 1985. Faced with that alarming situation which gave hints of the weakness of external demand and a recession in investments, great efforts should be made to secure the region's economic recovery so that it might attain growth rate which would be high enough to form the basis of long-term development. Therefore, in view of that gloomy

picture, she called on African leaders to review their development institutions and policies. Admittedly, she added, it was incumbent first and foremost on Africans themselves to effect the deep-rooted changes; however, that also called for an increased support from the international community.

28. She also recalled that within that context, the interest shown by UNDP over more than two decades had been concretized by the growing financial and technical support which it had lent to Africa through its regional, subregional and national funding programmes. Beyond the fruitful co-operation which had been achieved in that field between UNDP and ECA, she stressed that it was the joint efforts made by these two institutions towards the satisfaction of African countries' real needs.

29. Indeed, she stated that the important role bestowed upon UNDP for the execution of the United Nations Programme of Action for Economic Recovery and Development of the African continent during the years from 1986 to 1990, and the mandate given to the Administrator of UNDP, in that context, was an added stimulus to the idea that through collaboration between ECA and UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, the latter would ensure that all of its activities catering to the development of African countries would be inspired by economic policies that would be defined and assigned to ECA in the framework of a Programme of Action.

30. She added that the financial assistance that UNDP could bring within the framework of the Fourth Programming Cycle, for the implementation of subregional and regional projects, would enable member States to deal efficiently with certain problems that purely national efforts had not been able to resolve. Within that context, she urged UNDP and all the institutions which co-operated with it in Africa to ensure a greater degree of co-ordination between activities recommended in the regional and subregional programmes and those in national programmes.

31. Finally, she praised the bold initiatives taken by UNDP to proceed from then on not only with quantitative and qualitative evaluations of technical assistance given to African countries, but also with rationalization and planning of that assistance so as to adapt it to the actual needs of African States.

32. She concluded that the severe crisis prevailing in Africa was above all a crisis of identity and that Africa, traumatized by successive blows, was engaged in soul searching and would only find itself again when its own values were able to expand and express themselves in all their dimensions.

33. In his statement, the OAU Assistant Secretary-General said that the extraordinary meeting was devoted to the consideration of issues relating to the implementation of recommendations adopted at the special session of the United Nations General Assembly and the Priority Programme, and that the mobilization of the financial resources required was the most important problem. In order to put the continent back on the path of sustained growth and development, African countries had to make sacrifices especially as the

financial, human and institutional resources were lacking. Therefore, the contribution of international organizations and friendly countries were considered vital.

34. As an economic institution established by the United Nations, ECA was subject to the decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as far as its financial resources were concerned. In spite of the financial crisis, the Priority Programme and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development adopted by the General Assembly should be implemented. The meeting should define a global strategy for the mobilization of financial resources in favour of Africa.

35. Finally, he reminded the meeting of the fears expressed by some African countries during the eighth Conference of African Ministers of Industry concerning the global strategy to be adopted in the area of technical assistance, especially the problem of excessive number of studies, reports and meetings which sometimes were of no use to African countries.

36. In welcoming the delegates, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa explained that the second extraordinary session of the ECA Conference of Ministers had been called by the Conference's resolution 586 (XXI) adopted on 19 April 1986 in Yaounde. He reminded the Conference of the tragic event which had occurred in the region of Bamenda in Cameroon where 2,000 persons had lost their lives and thousands of heads of cattle were destroyed by a volcanic eruption of toxic and lethal gas. After expressing condolences to the Government and People of Cameroon, he paid tribute to the support the international community had given and hoped that the Conference would lend its support to the International Scientific Conference being planned by Cameroon to identify the causes of that disaster.

37. With respect to the United Nations special session on Africa and the unanimous adoption, by the international community, of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) (1986-1990), he stated that in assessing that session, the main issue should not be its success or failure, but rather how to exploit the response and commitments of the international community to the advantages of member States. That entailed giving precision to the commitments where they were vague, concretizing them as necessary, and above all implementing them to assure the world of Africa's determination.

38. He added that the United Nations Secretary-General had already initiated a number of measures for the successful implementation of UN-PAAERD, including, inter alia, the appointment of Ambassador Stephen Lewis (of Canada) as his Political Adviser on the Implementation of the United Nations Programme.

39. Since the bright prospects following the end of the drought were being dampened by weakening commodity prices, he underscored the urgency for the full implementation of UN-PAAERD by both the African Governments and the international community.

40. While some donor countries and financing institutions had already initiated activities towards the fulfilment of their commitments to UN-PAAERD, action needed to be taken by all, particularly the major donors. The gravity of the situation required substantial increases in aid as any reduction by the major donors would adversely affect all donor countries and financing institutions. Further, it remained to each individual governments to exert pressure on the international community and to enter into immediate discussions with their development partners.

41. Reiterating that the solution of some national problems required regional and subregional approaches, he stressed the role of regional and subregional economic co-operation and integration in the implementation of UN-PAAERD and APPER. While the existing intergovernmental organizations were preoccupied with the implementation of the United Nations Programme and APPER, it was up to member States to establish or strengthen linkages between national, regional and subregional activities. Further, where necessary, the reorientation of the activities of some of the regional institutions towards meeting the objectives and priorities of UN-PAAERD and APPER had to be backed by the necessary political will, otherwise their activities would continue to be futile.

42. Concerning the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle for Africa, the Executive Secretary informed the Conference that the Draft Regional Programme was the product of joint efforts by UNDP and ECA, which had jointly prepared an orientation paper delineating the consensus on African development issues as well as the areas of concentration for the Regional Programme. The UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle embraced the implementation period of APPER and UN-PAAERD, and should therefore be judged by how it contributed to the implementation of the priorities laid down by the African regional strategy. Its operational elements had to be drawn from the priorities set in that strategy with a view to enhancing regional co-operation.

43. Commenting on the areas of concentration of the UNDP Regional Programme, which were: economic co-operation, food and agricultural sector (with special emphasis on research and development), all other sectors related to the production of goods and services (with special accent on increased productivity through better management), and energy, water, transport and communications (with special accent on improving the utilization and maintenance of existing facilities), he indicated that two themes cut across the programme, namely the development of human resources and the transfer of more responsibilities to those African regional institutions which were viable and were supported by their member Governments. In that context, the purpose of the extraordinary session was not to make project selections but to ensure that the proposed sectoral allocations were consistent with the UN-PAAERD and APPER on the one hand and LPA and FAL on the other.

44. He informed the Conference that since the Draft Regional Programme had been prepared by the Africa Bureau, it did not cover eight of the ECA member States which were covered by the Arab Bureau. However, arrangements were in progress to ensure that the Regional Programme for Arab States, in respect of those eight States, was consistent with UN-PAAERD and APPER as well as LPA and FAL.

45. Turning to the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), he pointed out that over 50 per cent of the LDCs were in Africa, and that progress towards the implementation of the Programme had been slow, and the expected increase in resources had not materialized. ECA had a special role to play in the implementation of the Substantial Programme but ECA's programme was being executed by a small unit which needed to be strengthened. He hoped the Conference deliberations would produce recommendations on that issue.

46. Finally, he thanked the Government and people of Ethiopia for their continued support.

47. In his address, Mr. Pierre-Claver Damiba, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa, highlighted the economic situation within which the extraordinary session was taking place. The African population was increasing at the rate of 15 million people every year and income per capita was diminishing. Given these conditions and the 25 million tons of cereal deficit which had been projected to reach 100 million in the next 25 years, the standard of living of African populations in the year 2000 would be brought back to what it was in 1970 and the most optimistic scenarios would have to be revised unless drastic measures were taken.

48. In presenting the UNDP regional programme proposals, Mr. Damiba stressed that the 1987-1991 Fourth Programming Cycle would enable the African countries to have $US 190 million to sustain their efforts in regional co-operation. In the circumstances, nothing in Africa would be as usual again. Therefore, the session had to lead to a consensus on the analysis of the situation and priorities for the development of the continent had to become clearer. In that connection, it was necessary to consider together with the regional programme, certain aspects of African development like the case of the least developed countries, the question of the Substantial New Programme of Action, and the question of co-ordination mechanisms for the implementation of the programme. These issues were very important not only for UNDP but also for the other organizations of the United Nations system having a mandate to offer technical assistance.

49. Mr. Damiba then stressed that it was worth considering the enlarged scope of the discussions on the regional programme. The regional programme practically covered the period for the implementation of both the United Nations programme for Africa and that for APPER, as already stated by the Executive Secretary of ECA. That was a purely accidental coincidence, but it offered both a challenge and an opportunity. $US 190 million was not much. The amount was, however, a part of a budget of $US 1.2 billion programmed for the Fourth Programming Cycle in 1985, by the UNDP Governing Council. The difference would go to the countries for their national indicative planning figures (IPF). The modest allocation would necessitate vigorous drives for mobilizing additional resources, since according to UNDP conservative estimates, the minimum needs for financing African regional programmes would be $US 300

million. To cope with such a budget, 560 projects worth $US 1 billion, were received. As a result, 80 per cent of the requests could not be met, and that showed the magnitude and the variety of financial needs to develop and sustain African regional co-operation.

50. The methodology for the elaboration of the regional programme comprised tripartite consultation - consultation and dialogue with the recipient countries in order to obtain their views, and consultations with organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in order to ensure that the content, the orientations and the modes of execution of the programme could have an impact on the priority and critical sectors for the development of the region. The approach would also ensure that, on the basis of the discussions and results, UNDP would review the projects and finalize them for presentation to its Governing Council in June 1987.

51. That was why UNDP considered the extraordinary session as a crucial step in the consultation process. In general, much was expected from the process of consultations and dialogue. First, the critical evaluation leading to lessons from the past would reinforce the choice of priorities for programmes and bear on the central needs of regional co-operation. Secondly, it would engender suggestions and new ideas, new approaches, and their improvement in accordance with the priorities adopted by the Conference in Yaounde, last April, and reflecting APPER and the United Nations Programme for Africa. Finally, it would attract attention on projects or major actions which would have regional impact worth considering and reinforcing.

52. After having been reviewed by a panel of consultants, the projects had been classified into three categories. Category A related to projects which were likely to be retained after a few amendments; in category B and H were the projects which needed additional consultations; while category C projects did not need immediate evaluation. Most of the projects were not classified in category A, and hence it would be necessary to elaborate new projects; and, for that UNDP intended to consult with other United Nations agencies and international organizations in the months that followed in order to revise the projects or to propose new ones.

53. Mr. Damiba also mentioned that technical assistance accounted for 25 to 35 per cent of public aid for the development of Africa. The question was how to optimize such resources so that technical assistance could be best utilized and absorbed in accordance with the priorities defined in the plan. It would be equally proper to consider technical co-operation within Africa, making full use of excess human resources avilable in some countries who could serve temporarily in other African countries.

54. The Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa also spoke about issues related to planning in African countries, privatization, and integrating women in the process of development.

55. In conclusion, Mr. Damiba stated that, on the basis of new orientation, the UNDP Africa Bureau would henceforth, with much realism humility and without any pretention, open up its co-operation with African countries, and place

at their disposal instruments of auto-propulsion, that is, matters of technical assistance, that would effectively enable the States to organize themselves so as not to require technical assistance. Thus, in the days to come, African States could do without UNDP, or simply create their own UNDP using their African expertise, and then development would be accomplished.

56. In his remarks, Ambassador Lewis, Political Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, expressed satisfaction at being present at the second extraordinary meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission. He hailed the recently held special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa as a major breakthrough and as one which created a turning point in international co-operation and partnership. More significantly, the session provided a better understanding of the African background and problems; a workable agenda rooted in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery; a realistically broader framework for Africa's development; and a sense of shared partnership as part of the process.

57. He noted the many important structural adjustment reforms initiated by African Governments in response to APPER. Though laudable, the process was slow because the international community had yet to be fully mobilized to the cause. If the pace was to accelerate, increased support would be needed particularly to redress those institutional, financial and human resources constraints which had retarded the process. He pointed out that Africa was on everyone's mind and hence, everything possible should be done to mobilize the required support.

58. Ambassador Lewis informed the meeting that the expected IDA VIII expenditure level for the recovery period was then estimated at $US 12.2 billion which was higher than originally expected. However, he expressed deep concern not only over the projected 1986 growth rate of 1.2 to 1.5 per cent, but also over expected shortfalls that might result between recommended concessional assistance for 1986-1990, both bilateral and multilateral, and what was likely to be received.

59. The projected average annual concessional grants and loans for 1986-1990 were put at $US 8.5 billion as against a recommended $US 11 billion, leading to a shortfall of $US 2.5 billion annually. These were World Bank figures and estimates. It suggested a very serious situation. He therefore urged African Governments to keep the pressure on, to maintain their reform process, and to continue to raise such policy issues as trade, commodity prices and debt.

60. In conclusion, the Political Adviser outlined his mandate stating that it focused on the mobilization of the support of international community for Africa's economic recovery. Within that framework, he pledged to (a) work closely with the Steering Committee established by the United Nations Secretary-General; (b) ensure that the recovery programme became an integral part of all relevant international meetings and programmes; (c) canvass donors on

a one-to-one basis, sensitizing them, urging them to do more and keeping abreast of their programmes and activites; (d) ensure a flow of information between donors and recipients; and (e) make regular progress reports to the United Nations Secretary-General who was deeply committed to the United Nations Programme for Africa and determined that it should succeed.

Vote of thanks

61. On behalf of the delegations, the Minister of Planning of the Kingdom of Morocco read out a motion of thanks addressed to Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Secretary-General of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and to the Government and people of Ethiopia for the warm and fraternal hospitality offered to all the participants since their arrival in Ethiopia.

62. He also thanked, on behalf of all the participants, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Executive Secretary of ECA, the Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa for the initiative they had taken and their efforts in ensuring that the meeting was run smoothly.

Messages of condolences and congratulations

63. The representative of Egypt proposed that the Conference should address a message to His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon, conveying its sympathy on the natural disaster that had befallen the country. The meeting accepted the proposal. The text of the message is attached to this report as annex I.

64. The representative of the Comoros reminded the Conference of Ministers that Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, had just been re-elected for the second term, and that he had just recovered from a serious illness. He therefore proposed that a message of congratulations should be sent to him and that in view of his special services to Africa in sensitizing the international community to the critical economic situation in Africa, mobilizing the entire United Nations system for addressing it and ensuring the success of the United Nations Special Session on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa at which the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 was adopted unanimously, he should also be thanked. The Conference accepted the proposal. The text of the message is attached to this report as annex II.

General Debate

65. In his intervention, the representative of Nigeria stressed that in order to tackle Africa's priority problems, the questions of both the external debt and of the deterioration of terms of trade should be in the forefront. Those issues held the key for the revival of African economies.

66. The establishment of an active machinery for the actual implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action was therefore a condition without which critics alleging lack of political will would be easily forthcoming.

In that context, the Permanent Steering Committee of the OAU established for monitoring follow-up decisions of the Heads of State and Government should play a major role in the monitoring of the implementation of the United Nations Programme. In that connection, the task of the Committee should be as follows:

(a) Monitoring of the implementation of follow-up actions at the national and subregional levels;

(b) Monitoring and evaluation of performance of the donor community; and

(c) Mobilization of support from the United Nations system.

67. The Permanent Steering Committee should consider the possibility of establishing a task force and of sub-committees to facilitate implementation and tackle specific critical problems. Such an arrangement was not only timely but would even seem to be overdue.

68. With regard to the UNDP's Fourth Regional Programme for Africa, his Government was satisfied with the reflection upon African priorities as spelled out in the areas of concentration in the UNDP Orientation Paper. However, his Government felt that a greater sense of urgency should be placed on efforts to be made to achieve economic integration so as to attain the ultimate goals of the Lagos Plan of Action, namely, an African Economic Community by the year 2000, preceded by an African Common Market.

69. The Nigerian representative recalled the relevant aspect of the Declaration on Co-operation, Independence and Development adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the OAU in 1973 on regional co-operation being the outstanding single and indispensable instrument for economic integration in the region.

70. He also drew the attention of the Conference to recent achievements of ECOWAS particularly in the areas of financial resources whose situation had improved due to the payment of arrears by the member States of the organization and of the second phase on the protocol on free movement of persons which had now entered into force. Those were encouraging signs and UNDP should give full support to ECOWAS and similar subregional economic communities.

71. To enable UNDP to play fully and effectively its role, his Government recommended that certain measures should be taken to enhance UNDP's operational capacity, in particular by:

(a) Strengthening the UNDP Liaison Office with ECA in Addis Ababa;

(b) Increasing the role of ECA as an executing agency; and

(c) Increasing the role of the United Nations Resident Co-ordinators.

72. The representative of Zaire said that his country welcomed the fact that given the urgency of the critical economic situation that Africa was going through, the United Nations had decided to unreservedly support the efforts

made by African Governments in adopting the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. The United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 had not specified the measures to be taken by the international community nor had it defined the volume of assistance the international community was required to provide to enable the objectives set by the General Assembly to be attained. On the other hand, African countries could welcome with satisfaction the effort made by UNDP to submit its Draft Regional Programme for consideration under the Fourth Programming Cycle 1987-1991.

73. Given the central role of UNDP within the United Nations system with respect to development assistance and in view of the catalytic effect that its level of assistance could have on the other donors, it was up to African countries, in the light of their priority requirements, to thoroughly consider not only the relevance and coherence of the Programme but, above all, to assess the actual impact of the resources that UNDP intended to make available to Africa. His country had hoped to see a list of projects selected and possibly the volume of resources allocated for such projects without questioning the methodology used by UNDP. With respect to agenda items 6, 8 and 9, there was a coincidence between the overall objectives and periods of implementation of APPER and the first economic and social development plan for 1986-1990 that Zaire had just adopted. He also noted the correspondence between the UNDP regional programme and the 1987-1991 UNDP/Zaire co-operation programme with respect to the importance accorded to the improvement of economic management, strengthening of agricultural and industrial production support structures and social development. However, he deplored the paucity of resources that UNDP intended to allocate in 1987-1991 to the development of Africa. That problem gave cause for concern particularly in view of the fact that to attain the objectives of the Priority Programme, African Governments had to carry out considerable reforms to improve the management of their economies. Some of those measures involved considerable social and economic costs which might jeopardize their implementation. Such was the case particularly of clauses of economic and financial stabilization programmes which often required specific external debt payments within fixed time frames.

74. In conclusion, he recognized that the considerable technical assistance provided by UNDP to African countries could not be endless in view of the financial crisis that agencies of the United Nations system were going through. That being the case, Zaire was making efforts to identify and use whenever possible its own national experts. This would gradually yield resources that could be used on productive projects. The role of UNDP and ECA with respect to the designing, formulation and implementation of development programmes and projects in Africa was very important. In order to assist member States to design programmes and select national projects to be submitted to UNDP and other donors, ECA should be provided with sufficient material and human resources and UNDP should contribute to that endeavour. At the subregional level, he expressed the hope that UNDP would continue to finance the MULPOCs and ECA and provide them with all appropriate assistance and leave African Governments to select regional projects they deemed appropriate.

75. The representative of the Niger thanked the international community for its support in the implementation of the Priority Programme. He stressed the role that ECA, UNDP and OAU had to play in that endeavour and urged them to set up a machinery for monitoring the implementation of the Priority Programme.

76. While hailing the timely approach that had been selected for the implementation of the UNDP regional programmes, he emphasized the fact that the Fourth Programming Cycle should be integrated into the Priority Programme and be the tool for implementing the Programme.

77. After expressing his condolences to the Government and people of Cameroon on the tragic calamity which had recently affected that country, the representative of Kenya stated that the documents before the Conference and the presentation of the previous speakers raised four main points.

78. The first was the central place of linkages - in a general sense, between planning at the national and regional levels. Lack of such linkages had in the past led to development that was in disharmony with the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and of the Final Act of Lagos. Efforts had to be made to strengthen those linkages as regional and subregional economic co-operation remained the only avenue for Africa's salvation.

79. Second, it was clear that the developed countries had not backed their unanimous support of APPER with the necessary financial support. Reasons often advanced for such failure included budgetary constraints, hostile public opinion, inflation and unemployment as well as the impression that African countries were not doing enough for themselves. He explained that developed countries had a role to play in educating their constituencies that global peace, which was not possible in a divided world, was in everybody's interest. Besides, inflation and employment were only relative concepts. Further, the view that African countries were not doing enough for themselves was also erroneously given the adverse terms of trade which had often confronted them. It was clear the African farmer was currently working much harder to obtain the same quantity of goods and services purchased decades ago.

80. Third, concerning the question of what to do next, he submitted that African countries should continue to use every opportunity to mobilize international opinion. Linkages between national, subregional and regional activities had to be made a permanent feature of national plans. Efforts to promote regional co-operation had to continue and the wasting of resources on feasibility studies had to be discouraged and, where necessary, such studies had to be undertaken by developing countries themselves.

81. Concluding, he stated that there were regional and subregional institutions such as ARSO, PTA and the African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR) to name only a few which could promote the linkages which existed between national and subregional projects and they should be assisted by UNDP.

82. The representative of Morocco said that with a view to tailoring its economic policy as much as possible to the recommendations of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, his Government had prepared, with UNDP assistance, a co-operation programme designed to achieve food self-sufficiency, consider projects to increase productivity and efficiency of agricultural investment, develop human resources, improve the management of the economy and address the problem of desertification and drought control.

83. Due to a lack of co-ordination and because of the time frames required for the preparation of national co-operation programmes with UNDP, there was a danger that national programmes and the Programme of Action might not tally. UNDP should play a crucial role in the area of co-ordination and the role of ECA should be strengthened. Despite its status as project executing agency, the Commission was facing problems in hiring staff and purchasing of equipment.

84. In conclusion, priority should be accorded to social organization, the exchange of information and experience in the area of project implementation and the use of African experts. He proposed the establishment of a permanent committee on African development.

85. The representative of Ethiopia expressed the concern of his Government with regard to the insufficiency of resources for the Fourth Regional Programme for Africa. In fact, taking into account inflation, the amount of the resources effectively available could be estimated at no more that $US 100 million instead of $US 200 million as indicated in the document. He urged that supplementary intensive efforts should be made in order to increase the level of these resources and to this end, the Ambassadors of the African countries accredited to the United Nations in New York should play an important role in the mobilization of such resources.

86. Speaking about corrective measures envisaged by UNDP to overcome the weaknesses that occurred in the course of the implementation of the programme for the third cycle, the representative of Ethiopia stressed the need for strengthening national institutional capacity in the identification and preparation of regional projects, and underlined the importance assigned to the Resident Co-ordinators by expressing the hope that measures would be taken to strengthen their capacity for the implementation of the Regional Programme.

87. The representative of Ethiopia further noted that the allocation of resources by sectors did not seem to reflect fully the priorities which should be accorded to certain areas of intervention. With regard to the primary sectors, especially for agriculture in the areas of plant and animal disease control and combating of drought and desertification, the resources allocated seemed very insufficient and adjustments towards their increase should be envisaged in order to cover the most essential needs. He further noted that certain basic aspects inherent in various priority sectors, such as transport and communications and economic co-operation would need to be strengthened. Other aspects, such as personnel training for management and maintenance of equipment, regional satellite and maritime radio communication, quality control

of products as a means of promoting trade, and the role of computer, in particular the role of PADIS, should be highlighted in the document.

88. He said that the Multinational Civil Aviation Centre for Pilots which is located in Ethiopia and which had trained quite a number of pilots especially in Eastern and Southern Africa was not among the projects to be supported by UNDP during the Fourth Programming Cycle. He requested that UNDP assistance to that Centre should be considered in the revision of the Programme.

89. He finally drew the attention of the Conference to the need to draw up a programme of assistance for strengthening the capacity of African countries to negotiate investment resources particularly with such financial institutions as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The strengthening of negotiating capabilities through training courses, symposia and use of manuals should constitute a non-negligible support for the achievement of the objectives of the Regional Programme.

90. The representative of the Comoros said that the discussions could be summarized under two main headings, i.e., the deterioration in the terms of trade and public debt. He proposed that a resolution should be adopted to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations for organizing a special session of the General Assembly on the economic crisis in Africa stressing the fact that the special session would be inadequate without an appropriate solution to the public debt and that African countries should be granted a moratorium with respect to their public debt.

91. In conclusion, he suggested that inter-agency co-operation should be strengthened with a view to implementing the various economic development programmes of Africa.

92. The representative of Senegal welcomed the establishment of a committee for monitoring the implementation of the Priority Programme. To respond to the concerns of African countries, the Committee should, in particular, help African countries to design action to be taken at the national level, inform African countries on how the United Nations Secretariat intended carrying out co-ordination activities in the field and measures to be taken to improve the international environment.

93. With respect to the Fourth Programming Cycle of UNDP, he emphasized the clarity of the documents presented, the paucity of the funds available and the need to strengthen the ECA secretariat with respect to project implementation. In conclusion, the representative of Senegal suggested that the programme of the Fourth Programming Cycle should be brought in line with the Priority Programme and that there should be co-ordination at all levels to ensure greater efficiency in implementation.

94. The representative of Mali said that the Conference needed to give considerable thought to two problems. The first problem had to do with the independence of UNDP in view of its specific mandate. UNDP was seen by African countries as a multilateral institution. Unfortunately, UNDP defended positions

and gave advice similar to that of the advocates of adjustment policies. The other problem had to do with the main mandate of UNDP, namely, technical assistance. It was high time that optimum use was made of the financial resources made available to Africa by using the services of United Nations Volunteers and of African experts identified through technical co-operation among African countries.

95. The representative of Rwanda said that the crisis had had a beneficial effect since it had led to the adoption, by the Heads of State and Government, of the Priority Programme for Africa's Economic Recovery which had been the source of inspiration of the United Nations Priority Programme.

96. Africa's weaknesses had led to the definition of a relevant approach and strategies. However, the conversion of such strategies into operational and coherent projects would be more difficult that had been imagined. Indeed, the human and financial resources required were far more that those that could be mobilized by African countries and the international community. Since the resources allocated to the regional programme under the Fourth Programming Cycle of UNDP were not considerable, a ceiling should be placed on the number of projects in order to avoid dissipation of resources.

97. In conclusion, he recommended that intergovernmental economic integration organizations should be strengthened and infrastructural and production projects should be implemented.

98. The observer for the USSR commended the efforts being made by the international community to tackle the economic crisis of the African continent and ensure long-lasting solutions through socio-economic transformations.

99. It was his Government's view that technical assistance through UNDP channel to Africa should play a major role by contributing to the implementation of the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions which called for international economic security.

100. He emphasized that the actual critical economic situation called for urgent measures of disarmament thus enabling the mobilization of necessary resources for economic development. In that context, the relations between the USSR and USA were of prime importance.

101. While he recognized that external factors seriously affected development progress in the continent, he nevertheless drew the attention of the Conference to internal factors which should urgently be addressed in the priority areas of concern such as agriculture, human resources and infrastructure. He emphasized the importance of appropriate control and management by the States themselves and the strict avoidance of penetration of foreign private capital. No excuse could be accepted from UNDP if it were to facilitate the contrary as that would be in open conflict with national sovereign rights. The role of UNDP and in particular that of the United Nations Co-ordinators should remain confined to what it was meant to be, namely, technical assistance. In that perspective, the USSR was fully prepared to continue its aid to African countries.

102. The representative of Mexico expressed his country's appreciation for the invitation to participate in the meeting and reiterated his country's solidarity with the African countries.

103. The efforts of the African countries to formulate and implement their own development plans had to be supported with concrete measures. On the continued oppression of the people of the Republic of South Africa by the racist regime of that country, he called for collective measures by the international community to introduce economic sanctions against that regime so as to end apartheid.

104. The representative of France thanked all those who had contributed to the success of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa. France saw it as a victory of Africa over itself. The Programme of Action should be widely distributed in order to sensitize the international community and get everyone involved in its implementation.

105. The consultations and roundtables organized by UNDP were inadequate although necessary. No tangible results could be attained without bringing developing and developed countries closer together.

106. At national, regional and international levels, two principles should be applied: each and everyone should contribute according to his ability and inclination.

107. At the regional level, the efficiency of the UNDP regional programme would depend on its liaison with national authorities. ECA had a key role to play in the implementation of that programme. The success of the UNDP regional programme would also depend on its credibility. A dialogue should be established between UNDP and various international institutions and ECA should take such dialogue into account in evaluating development inputs.

108. In conclusion, he hailed the initiative to establish a United Nations Steering Committee responsible for the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. He welcomed the fact that the United Nations had demonstrated its coherence and was helping to guide all the parties concerned.

109. In his address, the observer for the Government of Czechoslovakia laid major emphasis on the basic principles his Government considered as essential for the development of the African countries. Those principles implied the strengthening of sovereignty over national resources, on the one hand, and accrued State responsibility in the management of these resources, on the other. Such policy should gradually lead to the elimination of private enterprises and transnational corporations.

110. Bearing in mind the interdependence of economic and social factors, he stressed the far-reaching impact all measures of disarmament could have on the socio-economic development of the African continent as the prevailing

situation of a race towards armaments was consuming tremendous financial resources and raw materials.

111. He concluded that only a fundamental restructuring of the international economic order would help achieve the individual and collective objectives of development of the African continent. His country was determined to contribute to the best of its capacities, in particular, the training of African nationals towards this end.

Review and assessment of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa (agenda item 4)

112. The Executive Secretary of ECA presented document E/ECA/ECH.2/2 to introduce the agenda item. He indicated that the document was self-explanatory and that much of the issues raised therein had been reflected in earlier interventions by distinguished delegates. On the whole, the special session had gone quite a long way in meeting the original African expectations and therefore constituted a significant success in itself. However, he cautioned that the response by the international community regarding some of the issues was not yet clear. Notwithstanding, the mutual commitment entered into by African Governments and the international community was of crucial importance and accordingly the real challenge for Africa was henceforth to live up to its undertakings and to make all the necessary painstaking arrangements to render the implementation of the Programme of Action a success.

113. In posing the question "what next after the special session", the Executive Secretary echoed the saying "charity" begins at home and emphasized the need for a forward movement within Africa and the international community to bring about the desired results. He said the extent to which ministries of planning and finance internalized the priorities and objectives set out in the Priority Programme would determine the level of effectiveness of the movement. In that connection, he posed five specific questions: Have the strategies and policies contained in the Priority Programme been spelt out in national development plans? To what extent have national development plans of 1986 and current and capital accounts reflected these priorities in terms of budget allocation? What budgetary arrangements and allocations have been made to meet the Priority Programme's target of increasing agriculture's share of the budget to between 20 and 25 per cent of public investment? Is there a comprehensive approach to policy reform geared particularly to food and agriculture, agricultural support sectors, human resources development and combating drought and desertification as explicitly outlined in the Priority Programme? Finally, what steps are being taken to ensure effective mobilization and utilization of domestic resources in support of the recovery programme? If these questions were answered in the affirmative by national governments then that would signal the beginning of the movement.

114. On what must be done to generate a positive and enthusiastic response from the international community, the Executive Secretary stressed that the testing and take-off ground in that regard was the national level, and that the Programme of Action provided enough basis for each country to identify

specific critical elements and begin the process. The Conference was informed that the United Nations Secretary-General had set up a high-level Steering Committee to advise and assist him in his task of following up the implementation of the Programme.

115. The Executive Secretary concluded by reiterating that Africa must take a greater responsibility in all these endeavours so as to demonstrate the test of commitment and determination which only could generate the desired international support. He noted that without such demonstrated commitment on the part of Africa, it would be questionable as to why the international community should be more committed, and accordingly urged all governments to start the movement no matter how slow and painful that would be.

116. In the ensuing discussion, participants agreed that the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa marked a major step forward, especially in the sensitization of the international community to APPER. They confirmed that the major responsibility for the implementation and follow-up of the Programme of Action, just like the Priority Programme upon which it was based, rested with the national governments themselves. In that regard, several delegations gave brief accounts of their countries' experiences in implementing the two programmes as well as the difficulties encountered.

117. The representative of Sierra Leone stated that a committee had been established headed by the Minister of Finance and Development to ensure that actions and initiatives taken conformed to the African development strategies. However, current development efforts being undertaken under the IMF and the World Bank were being constrained by conflicts between the guidelines of those organizations and the goals of the Programme of Action. For example, the requirements to eliminate subsidies adversely affected the priority agricultural programme to which 20 to 25 per cent of public investment was expected to be given. Agricultural inputs such as fertilizers whose price had tripled had become inaccessible to poor farmers.

118. He also noted difficulties in the co-ordination of the efforts of the co-operating partners, even within the United Nations system, who tended to depart from the agreed terms of co-operation. That problem was heightened, particularly in the case of the IMF and the World Bank. He, therefore, urged greater co-ordination and co-operation among the African countries, lest the external constraints, arising especially from the IMF and the World Bank requirements, should diminish or negate the critical initiatives being taken, particularly in the sector of agriculture.

119. The representative of Ethiopia stated that the international community had not been adequately mobilized. African countries should use every forum to keep continuously alive the problems of food, drought and external debt. For instance, the recent occurrence of rains had led some donors to believe that the drought was over in Ethiopia. Efforts were thus needed to sensitize them to the magnitude and root causes of drought and the measures needed to combat them. He noted that there was no single and correct path of development

which all countries should follow, since it depended on the stage of development and social, cultural, historical and natural resource conditions of each country. He therefore deplored the fact that his country's efforts and policies regarding resettlement and villagization had been misunderstood.

120. He said that the international community should be made aware that by whatever yardstick, Africa remained a low recipient of aid compared with Asia in the 1960s and 1970s. There should be a comprehensive approach to programme aid to Africa that would avoid the piecemeal project approach which, at best, indicated the presence of donors in the recipient countries.

121. He stressed the need to use effectively existing national and subregional institutions for the follow-up of APPER and UN-PAAERD. Those institutions had considerable excess capacity and should be utilized before creating new mechanisms. He pointed out that since the two programmes were based on concrete national experiences and problems, it should not be difficult to internalize those programmes in national development plans. He shared his country's experience where the 1986-1989 plan had accorded priority to agriculture to which 23 per cent of the investment resources and 30 per cent of the capital budget respectively had been allocated. The plan differed from the recovery programme in that it entailed huge balance-of-payments deficits due to the limited inflow of concessionary assistance and the decision of his country to choose growth over balance-of-payments equilibrium.

122. The representative of the Central African Republic observed that even before the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa, many African countries had courageously undertaken structural adjustment programmes, although those efforts were often constrained by natural calamities such as drought and locusts. He commended the good initiative taken by UNDP in the NATCAPs which should make it possible to avoid the problems of inadequate technical assistance.

123. He raised the question of commodities and stressed the need to adopt concrete measures to deal with the problems therein. That could be done through consultations between the developed and developing countries at high political level rather than within appropriate commodity organizations; for with these organizations the representatives of consumer countries assume positions as if they have not been given any instruction by their political authorities. He said that even if the debt situation was complex and different from one country to another, a moratorium of 10 years was necessary to enable African countries to have a breathing space. The present concessionary credits were given by a limited number of institutions and were difficult to obtain. The international community should be aware of this and find appropriate solutions, both multilaterally and bilaterally.

124. The representative of Burkina Faso stated that the Programme of Action should be viewed as a master plan to guide African countries to rely on their own resources to achieve some results no matter how limited. The follow-up to the Programme should enable the countries to improve their management capability. They should also continue to strive for actions to solve the undecided problems of additional resources, adverse terms of trade and external debt.

125. He said that his country's 12-year development plan, in line with APPER and UN-PAAERD, had been designed to test the capability to mobilize the population. Progress had been made as the population itself had been initiating development projects and was being motivated by that involvement. Popular initiatives had been shown in the construction of dispensaries and schools, in vaccination campaigns and tree-planting activities to combat desertification. The role of women had been given serious consideration and the scope for women's participation had been identified in every project.

126. In response to the questions posed by the Executive Secretary, the representative of Kenya stated that his country had drawn up a 15-year perspective programme up to the year 2000 known as "Economic Management for Renewed Growth and Development" which had laid emphasis on sectoral priorities similar to those of the Priority Programme. Thus, the attainment of self-sufficiency in food and agricultural production was Kenya's first priority. Other sectors related to agriculture, including the production of goods and services, energy, water, transport and communications, had also received high priority. Corresponding priorities had been made in budgetary allocation. The allocation to agriculture had been increased by 30 per cent in the current budget illustrating the importance attached to that sector.

127. With regard to the mobilization of domestic savings, Kenya had experienced a slight reduction in the share of Government revenue as percentage of the GDP due to structural adjustment measures undertaken under the IMF. However, fiscal steps were being taken to bring domestic savings to that level by 1990.

128. The representative of Senegal suggested that every meeting should be an opportunity for African countries to update their data, and determine and co-ordinate actions to be taken. Following the special session, each country should have contacted donors on follow-up and the ministries of planning should have ensured this. He noted that certain executing agencies of the priority sectors should have served on the United Nations Steering Committee.

129. He raised the question of the role of ECA in the implementation of the Priority Programme and the Programme of Action, and expressed the wish to see ECA increase its impact at the country level. He said that the countries needed assistance to improve the conditions of the external environment necessary for the implementation of the Priority Programme. Therefore, he expected ECA to attend meetings of GATT and UNCTAD to animate the African Group. ECA should also assist the countries in their relations with the IMF and the World Bank, which often caused fears and concerns. The countries needed assistance in programme and project formulation and expected ECA and other agencies to assist. In the area of mobilization of resources, he urged the countries to work together and UNDP to animate their consultations with donors before formal meetings with them.

130. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania noted that the implementation of the Priority Programme would depend on each country's economic, social and political conditions. He mentioned certain difficulties involved in economic policy reforms. Such reforms required substantial inflows

of external financial resources. If the resources did not come on time and in the right volume, the structural adjustment programmes were subjected to severe difficulties and the governments were confronted with political crises.

131. He stated that Tanzania had a three-year economic recovery programme approved by the IMF and the World Bank, whose implementation had begun in the 1986/1987 financial year. A five-year development plan would be launched in 1987/1988 which would be part of the long-term 20-year perspective plan to the year 2000. It would have the same emphasis as the Priority Programme, with highest priority given to agriculture and livestock, followed by transport and communications and industrial activities in support of the agriculture and livestock sector. Since 1984-1985 that sector had received 30 per cent of government expenditure. Tanzania had also taken steps to promote regional co-operation in its plans by establishing good relations and economic and communication links with its neighbours. The international community was also being alerted to the country's needs in matters like debt rescheduling.

132. The representative of Egypt stated that his country had taken measures to restructure its economy to get the country out of its crisis and to lay a foundation for long-term sustained development. Following the special session, a special committee had been set up headed by the Minister of Planning and comprising all relevant ministries. The committee was responsible for providing data to the United Nations, ECA and OAU to enable them to prepare the evaluations required for the implementation of the Programme of Action. The committee would also link Egypt's projects, which had the same priorities as the Priority Programme and the Programme of Action to the regional projects.

133. He said that Egypt attached great importance to technical co-operation with African countries, to which end a fund had been established. The UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa would soon go to Cairo to sign the agreement on the fund. The country would intensify that co-operation in the next five years through bilateral agreements and the international agencies. With regard to the conflicts between African States' development needs and the increasing demands on their balance of payments due to their unfavourable international trade climates, he urged that efforts be intensified with the development partners to show that Africa was determined to implement its commitments in the Programme of Action. Africa is concerned by some indications that the aid needed to implement the Programme would decrease in the programme period.

134. The representative of Zambia stressed that recovery must take place within Africa and hence Africa would have to assume the lead in the exercise. He informed the meeting about the recent structural adjustment measures undertaken by the Zambian Government to ensure a recovery process. These included the removal of subsidies, reduction in public spending, auctioning of the Kwacha to stabilize the exchange rate, the diversification of the economy away from copper to agriculture, the incorporation of the objectives and priorities of the Priority Programme in the 1987 annual budget and plan which were then being finalized and measures aimed at diversifying the economy away from copper to agriculture and increasing productivity.

135. The growing problem of debt which attracted a total accrued interest of 5.6 billion Kwacha a year singled out as a major obstacle to Government's recovery efforts noting that more than 50 per cent of export earnings were used annually to service the national debt.

136. He admonished Africa to fight for economic democracy in terms of trade. The issue was not one of how hard Africa worked, but that in most cases, African countries were used as slave labour and wage-earning centres for the more developed countries. Consequently, what needed to be done was not the adoption of temporary measures but the taking of concrete and long-term measures that would give Africa the right to earn from Africa's labour reasonable prices, and hence income, for the work done. Accordingly, those rules that dictated production and production prices, largely established by the outside world, would have to be clearly analysed and readjusted to allow the fulfilment of that right.

137. In regard to the post-recovery period, the Zambian representative urged the meeting to look beyond 1990, taking due care to make sure that Africa did not find itself in the same condition after the recovery period. To that end, he called for the adoption of a development model which would rely on the use of domestic resources if Africa was to reduce the long-standing external dependency; and warned that if borrowed funds were used to support modern facilities, then Africa ran the risk of having little success during and after the recovery period.

138. The representative of Nigeria emphasized the importance of co-ordination and collaboration at various levels to ensure success of the recovery programme. He noted that existing institutions such as ECOWAS, PTA, etc., which were important within that process should be accorded the opportunity to play their role and suggested their involvement in the work of the Steering Committee. He further called for the establishment of a joint OAU/ECA unit to assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

139. On the questions raised by the Executive Secretary with regard to the national implementation of the Priority Programme, he informed the meeting that they could all be answered in the affirmative in view of recent measures taken by the Nigerian Government. The oil crisis which preceded APPER had created a rethinking exercise to re-orient development strategies along the lines eventually charted by APPER. A growth rate greater than 3 per cent per annum had been targeted for agriculture and a Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure established with the amount of about 900 million Naira earmarked for increasing food production and the opening up of rural areas to development. Other efforts were underway to take a number of structural adjustment reforms. He concluded by reaffirming the need for OAU to be made an active collaborator in the work of the United Nations Steering Committee.

140. For his part, the representative of Zimbabwe indicated that the success of the recovery programme should be viewed from two angles. First, it should be viewed from the extent to which the international community would commit

itself; and secondly, the extent to which African Governments would live up to their own commitments, particularly in the mobilization of domestic resources. He welcomed the commitment made so far by the international community but expressed concern over the fact that the commitment was still vague and would, therefore, need to be concretized. Accordingly, he endorsed the proposal that Africa should not lose any platform in publicizing the programme so as to ensure the concretization of the commitment.

141. Sharing his country's experience with respect to implementing APPER with the Conference, the representative of Zimbabwe indicated that all possible efforts, within given resources, were being made to translate APPER for the transformation of the Zimbabwean economy. More specifically, a Tax Commission, whose report was being studied, had been set up to recommend a tax system which would be in line with the requirement of growth and development. He expressed his Government's constant concern about restructuring the national economy with a view to taking into account the plight of the peasant farmer. In that connection, a number of measures, which were in line with APPER objectives and priorities, had been initiated with the aim of increasing grain deliveries of farmers to the Grain Marketing Board, and especially peasant farmers' deliveries which at independence, in 1980, stood at only 5 per cent of total deliveries, but in 1986, as a result of the measures, stood at 45 per cent. So successful had these measures been in terms of maize deliveries that a new pricing policy to reduce maize production and increase the production of oil seeds had been designed and announced to start during the current production season. He concluded by highlighting the negative impact the destabilizing activities of the Republic of South Africa continued to have on the development efforts of his country and other front-line States and appealed to all countries for assistance in bringing an end to apartheid.

142. The observer for UNCTAD stated that many of the policies and activities in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) as mentioned by many delegations were related to UNCTAD's mandate. Fifty African countries, 26 of them least developed, were members of UNCTAD. Therefore, UNCTAD had an important role to play in assisting African countries in the areas of commodities, trade, debt and financial resource flows. Also, African countries could benefit from many of UNCTAD's technical co-operation activities, inter alia, in transport, shipping, insurance, support for regional integration groupings and problems of land-locked and island countries which had been mentioned by delegations. While in the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations in UNCTAD and GATT, African countries should prepare to argue their case and express their position in a clear and coherent manner, UNCTAD was also in a position to assist them.

143. UNCTAD was ready, with UNDP assistance, to support and strengthen the negotiating capacities of African countries. UNCTAD would collaborate with ECA and OAU to formulate appropriate policies on problems facing African countries in international trade in commodities. He informed the meeting that an inter-divisional task force had been set up to co-ordinate, monitor, and advise on the implementation of the UN-PAAERD and assured the Conference of UNCTAD's willingness to collaborate with other agencies and national governments towards the implementation of the recovery programme.

144. In responding to the various issues raised by participants, particularly on the fulfilment by the international community of its commitment and role of United Nations Steering Committee, the Political Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development explained first that originally $US 10.5 billion had been targeted for IDA VIII. That amount was later revised upwards to $US 11.5 billion and was at the time of the meeting estimated at $US 12.2 billion. With that trend, he warned that much more needed to be done to ensure the required financial resources. Secondly, he informed the meeting that the Steering Committee had the right and flexibility to expand and that FAO and the World Bank had already been asked to participate in its deliberations. He assured delegates that from then on a representative of the Steering Committee would take part in all relevant international meetings to promote the programme. Thirdly, he agreed that the success of the programme rested ultimately with the national level. Finally, he called on African Governments to give their respective ambassadors at the United Nations full instructions and authority to allow them to play a more useful role in the follow-up exercise.

145. For his part, the Executive Secretary of ECA expressed happiness to hear the various positive responses given to the questions raised. He indicated that if the responses were typical then Africa was on the move. Regarding the role of ECA, he informed the meeting that only limited resources were available to the secretariat. However, discussions were underway with relevant institutions and agencies, and ECA would pursue vigorously linkage relationships so as to foster greater interaction at the national level.

Draft regional programme of action for the UNDP fourth programming Cycle 1987-1991 (E/ECA/ECM.2/4) (agenda item 5)

146. The UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa introduced document E/ECA/ECM.2/4 - Draft Regional Programme of Action for the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle, 1987-1991 - and recalled some of the unique features of the Programme which had already been highlighted during his opening address (see under item 1 of the agenda). In addition, the Regional Director for Africa indicated that UNDP was favourable to economic integration in Africa and would contribute to the activities in that direction. He emphasized the importance of the cultural dimension of development and urged that the extraordinary session should not be considered as a meeting on projects.

147. In the discussion that followed, several delegations of countries and international organizations made observations and comments on the document.

148. A representative referred to paragraph 8 and emphasized that economic integration was an instrument for achieving self-reliant and self-sustained development which should ensure national and collective growth. That observation was aimed at doing justice to the introductory statement of the UNDP Regional Director, particularly with respect to the extension of UNDP technical assistance to all subregional organizations and the consideration of the cultural dimension as a development factor. He stressed that those

corrections should be made in the report of the Conference and they should be taken into account in the revision of document E/ECA/ECM.2/4 before it was submitted to the meeting of the UNDP Governing Council in June 1987.

149. A representative who first congratulated Mr. Damiba on the brilliant way in which he had summed up a major part of the concern of his delegation, made the following proposals:

(a) It was indispensable to have a clear view of the strategy beyond the year 2000 in such a way that the readjustment programme could lead to social balance, and in that context he paid tribute to ILO and suggested a revision of the growth policies in the employment strategy;

(b) A paragraph of document E/ECA/ECM.2/4 should be devoted to the development of electronics and informatics; and

(c) Resources from the non-programmed reserves should be allotted to the primary sector.

150. To conclude, the representative proposed that amendments should be made to paragraphs 57, 59, 60 and 61 of document E/ECA/ECM.2/4 so that support should continue to be given to IDEP while the Institute was redirecting its activities, including the introduction of the notion of computer training, the restructuring of enterprises, and the preparation of African economies for modernization.

151. With respect to sectoral approaches, another representative emphasized the need for close collaboration between regional and subregional organizations so that they could effectively assist member States. He drew attention to the reality that some countries could never meet their commitments to the organizations they had assisted in establishing because of their weak financial situations. He underscored the fact that flexibility should not mean cover-up but it should contribute to the search for effectiveness. He suggested two axes of orientation to UNDP: preparation of studies intended to sensitize the international community to the economic plight of African countries; and the strengthening of analysis and negotiating capabilities of member States.

152. To conclude, the representative drew attention to two important issues: the need to reduce projects and programmes management costs so that the benefits of the activities could go directly to the beneficiaries; and the need to deal urgently with planning crisis in Africa which had been engineered by African development partners which did not want planning because it constituted an important tool for effective development.

153. Another representative highlighted the crucial importance of four issues; namely participation of women in development; drought and desertification control; strengthening of the speedy intervention mechanisms against natural disasters; and population policies.

154. With respect to the participation of women in development, a representative insisted that it should be well considered and more resources alloted to it. Drought and desertification should not be dissociated from the struggle for increased food production. In that connection, UNDP should assist in disseminating the exchange of experiences in the management and control of drought and desertification. Similarily, more resources should be allotted to the primary sector and should be made to cover aspects of drought and desertification control. UNDP should also assist in strengthening the mechanisms of intervening against natural disasters. Finally, UNDP should allocate more resources to population policies and help formulate adequate policies in member States.

155. Another representative urged UNDP to increase the allocation of funds to the transport and communications sector, taking into account the importance of that sector in Africa.

156. A representative hailed the reforms introduced in the methodology of the drawing up of the UNDP Programme of Action. However, while recognizing the insufficiency of the available financial resources, he wished the continuation of UNDP assistance to regional and subregional organizations by redirecting, if necessary, their activities. He proposed an increase in the share granted to the primary sector so as to place it at the level of the one it was granted during the Third Programming Cycle, unless the loss of earnings was not justified by an increase in national IPF. Assistance to PANAFTEL should be continued.

157. A representative expressed regrets that there were no projects adopted in the energy sector and suggested that particular attention should be paid to new and renewable sources of energy. He requested UNDP to give top priority to regional and subregional co-operation projects. He realized that the financial package was not enough and wished that there was an additional mobilization of resources to face the numerous projects submitted.

158. Another, representative expressed concern over correspondence between the UNDP priorities and those of APPER; the problems of harmonization of regional and subregional organizations; and structural adjustment.

159. With respect to the first point, he was concerned that UNDP had not given consideration to drought and desertification in spite of the many relevant resolutions adopted. As regards problems of harmonizing the activities between regional and subregional organizations so as to reduce overlapping and duplication and so make them more effective, it was his opinion that assistance should continue to be given to such organizations individually until such problems found solution. On structural adjustments, solutions should be found to the problem of human sufferings while retrenching policies were being pursued.

160. A representative expressed satisfaction at the attention being paid to the case of islands in view of their peculiar situation and the permanent threats of natural disasters of which they are frequently victims. He

requested that account should be taken of that in the allotment of UNDP assistance resources. He felt that socio-cultural aspects of development were carefully considered to ensure a more positive impact of development programmes on low income population groups. As regards continental co-operation, he suggested that Africans should gradually be involved in the preparation, implementation and control of projects. He therefore requested that UNDP should contribute to the training of cadres in such techniques as could help strengthen the negotiating capacities of States.

161. Another representative supported the recommendation in paragraph 107 of the document on the need for studies on the social consequences of adjustment policies and cited the positive experiences of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire in that connection.

162. A representative drew the attention of the Conference to paragraph 68 of the document on food and agriculture and urged UNDP to allocate resources for the identification and the promotion of the use of the hitherto unused or underused African traditional food crops which did not require the use of scarce foreign exchange resources to produce such as yam, cassava, sweet potato, etc.

163. With regard to the transport sector, he suggested that high labour-intensive techniques for the maintenance of roads in rural areas should be better studied and disseminated. UNDP assistance in the transport sector should also take into account the effects on the front-line States of the destabilization policies of the Government of South Africa and consider the possibilities of projects aimed at opening new access and transit routes to the front-line States within the transport and communications sectors. He expressed his support for the population policy programmes.

164. A representative noted with approval the change of policy away from small projects to macro projects recommended in the programme for the Fourth Programming Cycle, but requested that that policy be treated with flexibility so as to admit small projects which had demonstrable economic impacts on the economy, e.g., some agricultural co-operatives. Even very limited assistance would still be appropriate in some cases.

165. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the allocation of resources to the primary sectors and requested that part of the non-programmed resources should be allocated to small projects on agricultural co-operation.

166. A representative observed that while the draft UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle placed adequate emphasis on human resources development, no mention appeared to have been made about the urgent need for proper utilization of human resources. He emphasized that the concept of "people-centred development" involved not only the training of human beings to acquire the necessary skills, but the creation of avenues for gainful employment so that every individual could be given the opportunity to participate in the development of the country. It was partly the failure to take full account of the direct linkage between human resources development and proper

utilization of such resources that had led to the unemployment crisis in most African countries. In the case of Nigeria, the Government had established a National Committee on Unemployment, charged with the responsibility for finding solutions to the problem. In view of the seriousness of the problem in the region, he urged UNDP to give preference to projects that would generate high employment, when considering projects to be included in the programme for the Fourth Programming Cycle.

167. In his intervention, the observer for Shelter Afrique referred to the role of urbanization and habitat in the implementation of APPER. There was a link between urban development and habitat on the one hand and economic growth on the other; unfortunately that link was not always recognized.

168. Habitat was only an essential need and a factor of social and political equilibrium, but it was also an important generator of employment and income.

169. In concluding, the observer for Shelter Afrique made a certain number of recommendations dealing with the elaboration of appropriate urban development and habitat policies, the improvement of the management of urban and housing infrastructure, the promotion of local building materials, and the adoption of measures in favour of savings for housing.

170. The observer for the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) commended UNDP for its determination to improve the quality of project formulation, implementation and monitoring and reaffirmed the important role of civil aviation in development and hoped that technical co-operation among developing countries would continue to be promoted during the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle.

171. He enumerated the problems that continued to face civil aviation in Africa, namely lack of properly trained managers, an inadequate civil aviation infrastructure, obsolete general civil aviation facilities, non-physical barriers and obstacles to facilitation.

172. He explained that his Organization maintained close co-operation with the African Civil Aviation Commission and subregional groups, and that had helped in the formulation of concrete project proposals for consideration by UNDP.

173. Finally, he informed the Conference about the close co-operation between ECA, UNDP and his Organization and promised his Organization's continued support in the cause of development for the peoples of Africa in particular and the world at large.

174. The observer for UNESCO expressed his Organization's support for the UNDP sectoral allocation in the programme for its Fourth Programming Cycle. He stated that the emphasis placed on science and technology was encouraging and hoped that education and training which fell under human resources management would be given adequate attention. He singled out the general needs of the education system and of rural development education as requiring particular attention.

175. Close co-operation between the United Nations agencies was necessary so as to strengthen UNDP's role as co-ordinator, to give proper emphasis to the areas of competence of the agencies, and to ensure a judicious and effective allocation of resources. In conclusion, he emphasized the need for Africa to rely primarily on itself and in that respect underscored his agency's commitment to co-operate with UNDP and all other United Nations bodies in assisting Africa to realize its potential in all fields of endeavour.

176. The observer for ILO associated his organization with the basic approach, orientation and rationale adopted in the draft Regional Programme for the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle which was oriented to the realization of the objectives of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and APPER.

177. He noted with satisfaction the emphasis on human resources development, the transfer of greater responsibilities to African regional and subregional institutions including the commitment to strengthen their management capabilities to enable them better assist member States, and employment promotion and infrastructure development linking rural development to the priority of agriculture. With regard to the wish expressed by many representatives for effective employment promotion, he suggested that UNDP and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system should have continuous consultations on the issue of manpower planning and training.

178. On the question of the impact on development of the structural adjustment policies of the IMF/IBRD, the representative informed the Conference that ILO had already taken the initiative to organize a high-level meeting to consider the social impact of those policies. Selected ministers of finance, planning and labour, as well as representatives of major financial institutions and employers' and workers' organizations would be invited to participate. He welcomed the proposed pilot study by UNDP and expressed ILO's preparedness to make a contribution.

179. He welcomed the strengthening of co-operation between UNDP and ILO and looked forward to the promised further consultations on the projects for the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle.

180. In his intervention, the observer for the African Cultural Institute (ICA) stated that culture was rightly considered by the forty-fourth session of the Council of Ministers and the twenty-second Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU as the driving force and leaven of development. He emphasized that the cultural activities linked with the promotion of handicrafts and cultural industries generating economic added-values were necessary for the economic and social recovery of Africa within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

181. Finally, he stated that the African Cultural Institute, through its activities of promoting handicrafts and cultural tourism, training and co-operation in the cultural field, fell within the context of the regional project of the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle and that youth should be included in the allocation of funds of that cycle.

182. The observer for FAO informed the Conference that the fourteenth Regional Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture had met in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire in September 1986 to consider a study entitled "African Agriculture: the next 25 years" which the Ministers had requested at their thirteenth Conference and of the strategy they adopted after examining the study.

183. That study, which had concentrated on staple food production with secondary emphasis on livestock production, inland fisheries and forestry, revealed that the food supply situation in Africa was unsustainable. It also indicated that Africa could feed itself provided the potentials were properly exploited, for example, by the promotion of intraregional trade and of conservation-based development, and highlighted the need for action on such complementary factors as incentives for farmers, including the provision of agricultural inputs, and the need for appropriate institutions and infrastructure.

184. The fourteenth Regional Conference endorsed the main findings and adopted a strategy to address the problems identified by the study. The Conference also adopted a series of activities within the framework of the strategy which also addressed the main agricultural objectives of the Priority Programme. Those activities were: (a) assistance to member States on the definition of agricultural strategies and programmes based on the findings of the study; (b) a feasibility study on the modalities for the expansion of aid-in-kind including the assessment of its acceptability; (c) preparation of a comprehensive plan to boost seed production; and (d) a massive continent-wide demonstration campaign for soil conservation.

185. The observer for UNIDO commended UNDP for the considerable thought and analysis that had gone into the preparation of the draft Regional Programme, and for its being based solidly on the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990.

186. Noting the low volume of UNDP resources at $US 200 million during the Fourth Programming Cycle, he stated that insufficiency of resources had to be made for by a higher quality of implementation and, in that connection, welcomed the accent on inter-agency consultation both in the formulation and implementation of multilinked sectoral projects. Further, the recommendation that 8.2 per cent of the IPF would be allocated to the industrial sector was consistent with the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. UNIDO would also carry out further consultations with UNDP, OAU and ECA.

187. Finally, he paid tribute to the good collaboration between UNDP and ECA and hoped that the collaborative efforts would continue and extend to others in the United Nations family, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

188. The observer for the African Timber Organization stated that the document on the regional programme for Africa referred to forests in the natural resources sector and that African countries were not yet in a position to explore, evaluate and exploit fully by themselves their natural resources, particularly their forests for the purpose of development.

189. He recalled that the African Timber Organization had been for co-operation in the forestry economy and the timber trade since its inception in 1976 and that it had tried to solve the numerous problems concerning the forestry sector in its member countries.

190. He stressed that ATO comprised 13 African countries: Angola, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Tanzania and Zaire and that those countries possessed 90 per cent of the forestry resources of Africa.

191. Finally, he pointed out that during the UNDP Third Programming Cycle, ATO benefitted from UNDP assistance and he hoped that co-operation between ATO and UNDP would be strengthened during the Fourth Programming Cycle in the interest of further economic integration in the region.

192. In his intervention, the observer for WMO stated that his Organization had since the 1970s, when drought prevailed in the Sahelian countries, assisted African countries to find ways and means of warding off natural disasters in the future. Consequently, when the economic situation of African countries became critical and alarming in recent years, due partly to natural disasters such as drought, desertification and floods, his Organization had participated, with the other United Nations agencies or the countries themselves, in the search for satisfactory solutions.

193. With regard to the UNDP Fourth Regional Programming Cycle, he pointed out that WMO, which was associated in its preparation, could only congratulate UNDP on its attempt to carry out successfully the difficult and complicated task which that exercise entailed. He affirmed that the programme reflected well the sectors of concentration identified in APPER.

194. He drew the attention of the Ministers to the important role which the meteorological and hydrological services in Africa could and should play in combatting drought and desertification in general and in providing support to agriculture and food production. He recalled that the same Conference of Ministers had, in April 1985, decided to establish an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), whose role was to improve the knowledge of atmospheric and climatic processes in the continent, and to contribute to the setting up of a continental weather and climate watching system, including early warning systems, aimed at assisting all weather-sensitive economic activities in Africa, WMO and ECA with the assistance of UNDP, had already made substantial progress in defining the technical activities and the administrative structure of ACMAD and had recently organized an inter-agency meeting in Bujumbura, Burundi to review these

proposals. He therefore urged UNDP to provide during its next programming cycle support to the establishment of ACMAD, as such support would encourage such other major donors as the World Bank and the United Kingdom which had expressed strong interest in ACMAD. He further pointed out that regional specialized centres such as the AGRHYMET Centre for the CILSS countries based in Niamey, Niger, the drought monitoring centres foreseen for Eastern and Southern African countries respectively in Nairobi, Kenya, Harare, Zimbabwe and the future tropical cyclone centre for the south-west (Indian Ocean) countries, would contribute along with ACMAD, to the immediate, medium- and long-term measures for the solution of weather-related problems.

195. Finally, he stated that WMO would be in touch with UNDP for the formulation and development of regional projects of direct concern to Africa during the Fourth Programming Cycle and hoped to pursue dialogues not only with UNDP but also with the subregional groups such as CILSS, SADCC, IGADD and ABN to define better the projects to be executed.

196. In her intervention, the observer for ITC pointed out the catalytic role trade played in increasing production and in promoting regional integration. It therefore had to be emphasized that because of their interdependency, agriculture, industry, transport and communications and trade and finance had to be considered as an integrated package and not individually.

197. Concerning trade, she indicated that often inadequate attention was given to the supply and demand conditions and to the availability of back-up facilities in support of the technical and managerial functions. In particular, she stressed the importance of appropriate trade information systems, harmonized procedures of standardization and quality control and adequate packaging in the provision of goods and services at subregional level as well as human resources development. She then briefed the Conference on the technical assistance her organization had provided to the PTA secretariat for the promotion of intraregional trade through supply and demand surveys and its subsequent impact at the first PTA Trade Fair in providing the business community with information on importers and exporters as well as trade prospects. That confirmed the need to create a complementary facility for the systematic collection, processing and dissemination of trade information.

198. In conclusion, she drew attention to the need to enhance the role of women entrepreneurs and managers in trade development.

199. In pointing out the linkages between the Cairo Plan on the Environment and the UN-PAAERD and the OAU APPER, the observer for UNEP stated that the two central elements of UN-PAAERD were first the determination and commitment of African countries to launch both national and regional programmes of economic recovery and secondly the response of the international community and its commitment to support and complement African development efforts. The general objective of the Cairo Programme was to strengthen co-operation between African Governments in economic, technical and scientific activities

so as to halt and reverse the degradation of the African environment. Hence the objectives of UN-PAAERD, APPER and the Cairo Programme were generally complementary. Further, the Cairo Programme could play an important role in the implementation of UN-PAAERD since it spelled out in considerable detail the methodologies and mechanisms for its implementation.

200. He then expressed the request of the Ministerial Conference on the Environment on the use of IPF funds, and added that UNEP would be looking forward to having consultations with UNDP on project proposals for the Fourth Programming Cycle.

201. In responding to the various observations and suggestions made by representatives of member States and other participants, the Assistant Administrator for UNDP and Regional Director for Africa expressed his satisfaction at the positive contributions of the participants and assured them that the proposals and suggestions would be taken into account when finalizing the regional programme.

Implications of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development for linkages between country programmes and the regional programme under the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle (agenda item 6)

The problem of technical co-operation in Africa: a new approach (National Technical Co-operation Assessment and Programmes (NATCAPs) (agenda item 8)

202. The meeting decided to consider these two agenda items together given their interrelationship.

203. In introducing document E/ECA/ECM.2/5 on the implications of the United Nations Programme, the UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa highlighted the necessity for vertical and horizontal linkages between regional and country programmes and between multicountry projects and national ones and stressed the emphasis UNDP placed on such dynamic linkages under the Fourth Programming Cycle. Linkages, he said, would ensure effective implementation of UN-PAAERD. They served to promote a unity of purpose and hence, given the scarcity of critical development resources in Africa, it was only logical that policies, programmes and activities at the regional and subregional levels should be linked with national plans and programmes. African Governments were therefore urged to plan deliberately the enhancement and promotion of these linkages rather than allowing them to occur accidentally.

204. He identified the key role UNDP could play and outlined certain features which supported the suitability of UNDP in assisting African Governments in co-ordinating and implementing UN-PAAERD. First, the presence of a UNDP field office in virtually every member State would facilitate access to national institutions and allow a greater level of appreciation and understanding. Secondly, the coexistence of regional and national programmes within UNDP activities would enable region-wide perspectives and the launching of region-wide approaches to resolve common problems. Thirdly, the

multinational and multi-sectoral character of UNDP would ensure neutrality and objectivity. Fourthly, the existence within UNDP of a wealth of experience derived from other regions would be vital. Lastly, the National Technical Co-operation Assessment and Programmes (NATCAPs) approach, and the identification of technical assistance priorities and roundtables, would also be useful. He requested national governments to get, through the use of their respective IPFs, local experts and institutions involved in the planning, designing and implementation of national and subregional projects.

205. In presenting document E/ECA/ECM.2/7, the Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa indicated the legitimacy and usefulness of NATCAPs. First, NATCAPs' concerns for human resources development and utilization were clearly highlighted in APPER. Secondly, the concept of NATCAPs was flexible and action-oriented. While the focus of NATCAPs would vary from country to country, it had an ultimate goal to produce, through successive phases, a comprehensive plan that would ensure improved technical assistance, effectiveness and co-ordination. African Governments were therefore urged to take the programme seriously and internalize it by increasing the involvement of national expertise in the exercises.

206. He also informed the meeting that between December 1985 and August 1986, an initial phase of NATCAPs was conducted in seven countries and that additional requests had been received. Speaking on the basis of experience gained so far, he was convinced that donors would be encouraged more if African States took the initiative nationally and regionally to assess their human resources capabilities and used them appropriately. Meanwhile, the UNDP Governing Council had called on the Administrator to assist African countries in assessing and formulating country programmes in the utilization of human resources with a view to strengthening public sector performance. Within that mandate, consultations with a number of African countries had taken place and pilot exercises initiated in Zambia, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Swaziland, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. The results of these consultations would be a qualitative inventory on technical assistance that would provide the basis for a more efficient use of technical assistance within guidelines set by national governments. He concluded by indicating that what were expected of governments for the success of the programme were foremost the willingness of national governments to associate with the programme and the deployment of national experts and institutions for its implementation.

207. In the discussion which followed, delegates expressed satisfaction with the New Approach to Technical Assistance and acknowledged the need and usefulness of co-ordination. Several delegations, however, identified a number of issues and specific national and regional programmes that needed to be given further consideration under the technical assistance programme.

208. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania welcomed UNDP support and initiative in making technical assistance programmes more effective in Africa and pledged his country's preparedness to co-operate in the exercise within the context of SADCC and the PTA. He thanked the organization for

the various assistance given to Tanzanequested that the list of additional projects submitted by his country to UNDP, namely strengthening of maritime, ports and multimodal transport se contexystem in Eastern and Southern Africa and control of red locusts and grain pests in Eastern and Central Africa, be included in the regional programme. He further requested that the SADCC projects which were in the pipeline, namely manufacture of industrial chemicals and of veterinary drugs, and the proposed project development workshop should also be included.

209. The representative of Sierra Leone emphasized the particular importance of regional co-operation and integration for small countries. In that connection, he cited the efforts of the Mano River Union (MRU) in establishing training institutions to develop human resources and required high-level skills in telecommunications, maritime affairs and research on tropical fruits. He thanked the UNDP and the United Nations system in general for the support given to MRU in its formative stages and appealed for further assistance especially to the training institutions.

210. Sierra Leone was quite agreeable to the new approach since it reflected the country's own concerns. Past approaches to technical assistance had tended to be ad hoc and had reflected more the interests of the donors than those of the recipient countries. The representative of Sierra Leone suggested that an inventory, even a qualitative one, of all technical assistance might be useful to bring the needs of the countries into balance. He pledged his country's full support and co-operation to UNDP for its NATCAPs exercises.

211. Following upon the proposals of Sierra Leone concerning MRU, the representative of Liberia appealed to UNDP to support the training institutions of the Union which included one in the area of forestry. He informed the meeting about the recent decision of MRU to pass on the operational costs of those institutions to the respective host countries. That was particularly difficult for the countries which were grappling with structural adjustment problems and yet felt that it would be wasteful to close the institutions. He therefore urged UNDP to give special consideration to the four institutions whose activities could eventually be strengthened to cater for other African countries.

212. In his contribution, the representative of Tunisia underscored the importance his country attached to the issue of co-operation as recommended by the Lagos Plan of Action and APPER. Technical co-operation had the highest priority as the means, actual and potential, for achieving complementarity and integration in Africa. He observed that in spite of the manifest interest shown and recommendations made in favour of technical co-operation in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and at various meetings including those of the UNDP Governing Council, only very few of the directives had been included in the UNDP manual on policy and procedures to guide the countries.

213. He suggested that national IPFs should be used to cover the expenses related to the transfer and development of the required technology to other countries. His country had decided in the UNDP Third UNDP Programming Cycle

1982-1986 to devote $US 500,000, half of which was taken from its national IPF for the promotion of technical co-operation with other African countries. That project would be strengthened during the Fourth Programming Cycle to train African manpower in Tunisia and to send Tunisian experts to African countries. So far, eight countries had benefitted from the project. From its experience, Tunisia was convinced that Africa could bring about its own autonomous approaches to co-operation. He therefore appealed for the promotion of technical co-operation through the use of national and regional IPFs. In that regard, he informed the meeting that at the level of the regional IPF of the Arab world, Tunisia intended, under the Fourth Programming Cycle, to establish a fruitful co-operation with the Arab world regional IPF and the African IPF, especially through technical co-operation.

214. In his intervention, the representative of Uganda reviewed the structure of African economies as they had evolved over the last 25 years and emphasized that the hope for Africa's recovery lay in self-reliant development fostered by inter-country collaboration. Accordingly, Uganda welcomed the initiatives taken by UNDP in ensuring the existence of linkages. He however warned that inter-country co-operation was marred not only by those structural factors designed to protect colonial interests, but also by the prejudice against South-South co-operation reinforced by acquired foreign consumption patterns and values. Consequently, Africa should tap the tremendous opportunities embodied in inter-country and interregional co-operation. He informed the meeting that, in addition to supporting subregional arrangements, his Government had placed due emphasis on national projects of subregional character.

215. On the issue of technical assistance, he indicated that an assessment of Africa's experience in that area over the last 25 years had been unsatisfactory and disappointing. The use of international technical assistance which had seemed appropriate at the time of independence became a more or less permanent phenomenon of Africa's dependence on foreign manpower partly because of its employment and income effects in favour of the donor countries. Furthermore, the acute manpower problem of Africa 25 years ago was no longer of the same shape and size. Therefore, a new formula would have to be sought for the delivery of technical assistance to Africa. In that regard, the representative proposed that UNDP-funded projects and consultancies in Africa should use expertise drawn primarily from among national experts, or experts from within Africa, or experts from other developing countries, in that order of preference. Similarly, UNDP-funded projects should place more emphasis on equipping African experts to enable them to apply their expertise for African development.

216. The representative of Guinea reiterated the importance of UNDP's support for the training institutions of the Mano River Union. MRU had proved its usefulness but the level of development of the countries made additional support necessary to overcome their problems. He informed the meeting about his Government's efforts to restructure, with UNDP assistance, the Guinea economy after 25 years of independence. He congratulated ECA and UNDP for the new initiative and approach which would encourage South-South co-operation,

and urged African countries with trained manpower and other resources to provide assistance to others in the region within that framework. Such assistance would cost the recipient countries less and would be better adapted to their circumstances.

217. For his part, the representative of Guinea-Bissau underlined the point that subregional co-operation should be based on national level co-ordination. In the future, Guinea-Bissau would devote its IPFs to well-defined programmes centred on co-ordinated projects to avoid scattering resources over several small projects. He considered it important for UNDP to know the activities of other agencies in each country so that a global picture of the available technical assistance could be obtained.

218. With regard to subregional co-operation, he informed the meeting that with UNDP assistance, a study had been undertaken of a major river in his country for the purpose of co-operation with Guinea. Discussions would be held with Guinea bilaterally or through the OMVS on how best to develop and use the river. He drew attention to the special need for co-operation among the newly-independent Portuguese-speaking African countries whose priorities, such as roads and road networks, were often different from those of the older independent countries. With regard to the proposed studies on experiences with structural adjustment programmes, he launched an appeal that the results of such studies should be made available to member States before agreements were signed with the IMF or the World Bank so as to make member States aware beforehand of the repercussions and impact of the proposed programmes. As the preferred partner, UNDP should support the African countries in subsequent negotiations.

219. The representative of Zambia stated that his country felt honoured to have been chosen for the first phase of the NATCAPs. Although it was too early to assess the results, Zambia was enthusiastic about the approach which was an improvement on existing arrangements. Given Africa's conditions, it was necessary to try different approaches to find those that would promote the desired accelerated growth and development. He urged UNDP to assist in the training of personnel in project formulation and writing, especially of projects that would promote subregional integration.

220. The representative of Nigeria underscored the need for economic integration in Africa as a means of achieving effective development. He observed that paragraph 4 of document E/ECA/ECM.2/5 had not taken cognizance of the recent experience and developments in ECOWAS. For example, the second phase of the protocol on the free movement of persons had come into force and member States were meeting their arrears. He therefore requested that the document be updated to reflect the relevant recent developments in ECOWAS and reiterated his earlier appeal for UNDP to assist the organization.

221. Referring to annex 3 of document E/ECA/ECM.2/7 on human resources development and utilization, the representative of Gabon informed the meeting UNDP had assisted his country to establish a civil aviation training centre where students from other African countries were being trained.

222. The representative of the Comoros noted that although UNDP had been taking very positive initiatives, certain urgent decisions could not be implemented immediately because of the usual long procedures of international agencies. In order to remedy this situation, it was proposed that UNDP should raise the level of its decision and to increase the powers of its resident representatives given the acute problems in Africa. He urged the promotion of South-South co-operation, although certain donors maintained that the bulk of their assistance go back to their countries through the use of their experts. In that regard, he urged African countries to intensify their co-operation efforts especially in three areas, namely engineering consultancies for pre-investment studies, supervision, and implementation of projects in the field. UNDP should assist the countries to establish inventories of their national consultants and manpower that could be of assistance to other African countries. He paid tribute to those countries which were already co-operating in the training of cadres.

223. He expressed regret that the French-speaking countries of the East African - Indian Ocean region were not benefitting from the co-operation programmes of several subregional institutions such as the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute in Arusha, Tanzania and the Civil Aviation Training Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Even within the PTA, linguistic difficulties obliged some member countries to look for co-operation outside the region. He therefore proposed that each country should endeavour to set aside linguistic barriers in favour of the strengthening of co-operation thereby benefitting to the maximum from the existing facilities. He also requested UNDP to consider undertaking a study on the impact and effects of co-operation through experts from outside the region, since some of those experts were very expensive and did not pass on effectively the necessary technology and know-how to their national counterparts. Such a study could be discussed at a regional seminar and guidelines drawn up with a view to defining contractual obligations particularly for foreign experts.

224. The observer for FAO welcomed the two documents on such important issues and pointed out that the deficiencies in linkages between national and regional programmes had recently been recognized with the recent locust problem. He indicated some areas such as early warning systems, food production and pest control where such linkages were urgently needed. On the NATCAPs, he observed that that was the first time the subject had received substantive treatment in a meeting. He was however concerned that the tripartite basis of technical co-operation had not been respected in the document and that the role of the specialized agencies as providers of technical assistance, as opposed to financial assistance, had not been stressed. He hoped that those agencies would be given an appropriate place in the NATCAPs exercises in the future.

225. In his contribution, the observer for ILO informed the meeting about his Organization's long experience in promoting regional programmes and co-operation especially through JASPA. While the experience was satisfactory, greater efforts were required particularly in the area of national programming. ILO had also adopted the NATCAPs approach for quite some time although UNDP had now introduced new and interesting methodologies into it. Referring

to paragraph 14 of document E/ECA/ECM.2/7, he confirmed that ILO had undertaken manpower studies in more than 20 countries, but the work needed to be updated and utilized through co-operation and co-ordination within UNDP.

Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries (agenda item 7)

226. The Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa of UNDP introduced document E/ECA/ECM.2/6 - Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the least developed countries.

227. After giving a background to the origin of the programme, he informed the Conference that the document had already been presented and adopted at several conferences including the Conference of Ministers of Least Developed Countries. He then highlighted the role of roundtables and consultative meetings and referred to the utilization and management of the Special Measures Fund for LDCs and the calendar of forthcoming meetings.

228. In the discussion that followed, the representative of Lesotho expressed his appreciation to UNDP for its assistance and especially that his country was the first country to have had the benefit of the consultative mechanism. His country attached great importance to the consultative mechanism, and in that connection he requested UNDP for a fixed date for the next Consultative Meeting on Integrated Rural Development and Employment Creation in Lesotho.

229. The representative of Togo expressed his gratitude to friendly countries and funding institutions for their invaluable assistance in the preparation and organization of his country's roundtable and confirmed the dates 20 to 24 October 1986 fixed for the next sectoral meetings in Lome, Togo.

230. The representative of Rwanda declared that there were two essential points on the mechanism of roundtables and consultative meetings: the need to support the initiative and the role of the LDCs in the establishment of the mechanisms and to improve continually the mechanism for dialogue.

231. The representative of Guinea-Bissau expressed his appreciation to UNDP and stated that the success of roundtables depended on the objectives as well as the goodwill of the host government. The questions concerning the preparations for a roundtable, its objectives, its follow-up and the mobilization of resources should always be under close review.

232. He then informed the Conference that his country with the assistance of UNDP would be organizing a sectoral roundtable on human resources in October 1987.

233. The observer for UNESCO pointed out that most LDCs faced the same two problems, namely drought, desertification and in general soil degradation through erosion, and the problem of energy resources.

234. Finally, he expressed UNESCO's willingness to co-operate with ECA and UNDP in developing co-operative programmes in these two areas so as to assist member States.

The problem of technical co-operation in Africa: a new approach: .National Technical Co-operation Assessment and Programmes (NATCAPs)| (agenda item 8, see para. 202)

Co-operation between UNDP and ECA concerning the critical economic situation in Africa (agenda item 9)

235. A representative of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) introduced document E/ECA/ECM.2/3, Co-operation between UNDP and ECA concerning the critical economic situation in Africa and indicated that the document was for the information of the Ministers since the study was still in progress.

236. He explained that the JIU had decided to undertake a study on co-operation between UNDP and ECA with a view to reviewing the functioning of technical and financial co-operation which should exist between ECA and UNDP as a prelude to the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery. Although that study was still in progress, the preliminary review had revealed the following problems.

237. Even after the adoption of the General Assembly resolution 33/202 on the regional commissions as executing agencies of UNDP projects in their own right, ECA as an executing agency was still facing a lot of difficulties, particularly financial and technical. Owing to the financial crisis facing the United Nations Organization and all the organs of the United Nations system, these executing agencies were compelled to review their policies for giving technical assistance to African States. Further, while the MULPOCs were playing a very important role at the subregional level, they were facing financial problems. They should be reinforced so as to strengthen their operational mandate in relation to the Priority Programme. The co-operation between ECA and other United Nations agencies, as well as other executing agencies should also be strengthened.

238. Finally, the operational capability of ECA itself in the backstopping of projects needed to be strengthened.

239. There being no discussion, the Conference took note of the document and requested the Joint Inspection Unit to continue with the evaluation and report to the next meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

Summary and conclusions of the discussions on item 5 to 9

240. In her summing up of the discussions, the Chairperson highlighted the outcome of the second extraordinary session of the Commission/Conference as follows:

(a) The resources available to UNDP for the Fourth Programming Cycle were limited, it was up to member States to ensure that the available resources were used optimally;

(b) As far as regional and subregional co-operation was concerned, the UNDP Director stressed that with the exception of a few projects which met UNDP criteria, his agency had difficulties in examining some projects submitted for consideration. Member States should therefore ensure that intergovernmental groupings submit fully prepared and comprehensive projects;

(c) As regards the problem of effective co-ordination and collaboration between UNDP and the executing agencies of the United Nations and others such as the IMF and the World Bank, the Conference decided that member States should play the lead role to ensure that the various partners operated in the interests of member States;

(d) On the question of technical assistance, it appeared after careful analyses that member States should pay particular attention to this important problem and ensure that African expertise were utilized to the maximum in the implementation of national and regional IPFs.

241. The Chairperson ended by expressing her country's appreciation of the solidarity manifested by the Conference with her on the Nyos tragic disaster.

Any other business (agenda item 10)

242. There was no issue raised under this item.

Adoption of the report of the second extraordinary session of the Commission (agenda item 11)

243. On Wednesday, 15 October 1986, the Conference of Ministers adopted its resolutions contained in this report and on Thursday, 16 October 1986, its report subject to the amendments which had already been incorporated above.

Closure of the meeting (agenda item 12)

244. The UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa thanked the Conference. He said that he was very much impressed by substantive contributions made by delegations. UNDP would continue to play its role in the development of the African continent and would continue to be at the disposal of African countries.

245. The Executive Secretary expressed sincere appreciation to all participants for the seriousness of work they had done and for their high sense of dedication. He thanked the UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa for the good collaboration between UNDP and ECA. He also expressed thanks to Madam Chairperson. He said that that was the first time that any ECA session had been presided over by a lady. Therefore ECA should have to revise its rules and procedures to provide for the pronoun "her".

246. He thanked the host Government for its understanding and the support provided for the second extraordinary session. He reminded the Conference that the second extraordinary session was ending on 16 October which also

was the World Food Day and so it was the time to renew African commitment for making hunger and starvation a thing of the past.

247. In her concluding remarks, the Chairperson said that the meeting had provided the opportunity for very fruitful exchange of ideas and views. She said that on getting back to their countries, representatives should strengthen the "flame" of mutual co-operation. She thanked the secretariat team and the interpreters for their services and the Government of Socialist Ethiopia for the facilities which it had provided to make the stay of all participants enjoyable and their work fruitful.

248. On behalf of her Government, she thanked the participants for the sympathy and solidarity shown by them on the tragic disaster which her country had just gone through.

249. She then declared the meeting closed.

Resolutions adopted by the Conference of Ministers at its second extraordinary meeting

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ES-2/1 United Nations Development Programme Fourth Cycle Regional Programme for Africa, 1987-1991

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Commission resolution 586 (XXI) of 19 April 1986 by which the ministers endorsed the orientation paper jointly prepared by Economic Commission for Africa and United Nations Development Programme, on the United Nations Development Programme-assisted Fourth Regional Programme for Africa, 1/

Having examined the general framework of the Draft Regional Programme for the United Nations Development Programme Fourth Programming Cycle for Africa, 1987-1991, 2/ reflected in document E/ECA/CM.12/37,

Considering the fact that careful modality must be adopted in the selection of the projects and activities leading to the preparation of the Regional Programme, especially with regard to the consistency of the Programme with Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER), 1986-1990 3/ as well as with the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990, 4/

1. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme for its continued assistance to the development of the African region;

2. Expresses also its appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme Administrator for his initiative to prepare the Regional Programme for Africa in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and in consultation with all the agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with the Programme;

3. Approves the general framework of the Draft Regional Programme Document for Africa during the 1987 to 1991 UNDP Programming Cycle as a far-reaching and relevant programme of assistance for Africa;

4. Endorses the activities so far identified in each sector of the African economy as contained in the Draft Regional Programme for Africa;

5. Takes note of the fact that more preparatory work will be undertaken for the selection and formulation of other activities, in the light of the recommendations made by the Conference of Ministers, especially in the field of economic co-operation;

1/ See E/ECA/CM.12/37.
2/ See E/ECA/ECM.2/4.
3/ A/40/666.
4/ A/RES/S-13/2.

6. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to continue their close co-operation in all activities concerning the preparation, formulation and implementation of the Fourth Regional Programming Cycle for Africa;

7. Urges all organizations executing or sponsoring projects to hold consultations more frequently among themselves so as to ensure that there is no duplication;

8. Appeals to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to increase the magnitude of the resources allocated to Africa in the light of the crisis facing the continent and taking into account the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990.

ES-2/2. Linkages between the United Nations Development Programme-assisted Fourth Regional Programme for Africa and the country programmes of the organization

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa, 1980-2000 5/ and the Final Act of Lagos 6/, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, 7/and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 8/ on collective self-reliance and the importance of national efforts in such collective self-reliance,

Also recalling that one of the main purposes of the United Nations Development Programme-assisted Fourth Regional Programme for Africa is to ensure that activities at the regional level would enhance development at the national level,

Aware of the desirability of fostering close linkages between the individual country programmes for which the Regional Bureau for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme has responsibility and its Regional Programme for the Fourth Programming Cycle,

1. Welcomes the decision of the United Nations Development Programme to establish a mechanism which would allow a systematic review of its round tables for member States with a view to ensuring that they respond to the needs of the least developed countries and the expectations of the donors in the efforts to achieve effective aid co-ordination;

5/ A/S-11/14 annex I.
6/ A/S-11/14 annex II.
7/ A/40/666.
8/ A/RES/S-13/2.

2. Endorses the new approach to human resources development in Africa being introduced by the United Nations Development Programme entitled "National Technical Co-operation Assessments and Programmes" (NATCAPS);

3. Calls upon member States to make every effort possible to ensure that in designing and formulating their respective country programmes, close linkages between the regional programme and their respective country programmes are established;

4. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue his collaborative efforts with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa notably in the activities relating to the country programming exercise, the evaluation of national programmes of economic development and the preparation, the organization and follow-up of round tables;

5. Further requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to provide the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa with the appropriate resources during the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle in order to ensure the effective participation of ECA in the collaborative efforts referred to in the preceeding paragraph.

ES-2/3. Organization of an international scientific conference on the causes of the Nyos disaster in Cameroon

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the devastating consequences of the Nyos disaster on the economy of Cameroon, which resulted in the loss of considerable human lives and the destruction of property and livestock,

Noting with concern that natural catastrophies such as toxic and lethal gas leaks could occur elsewhere,

Aware of the fact that the causes, the frequency and the manifestations of this natural phenomenon are difficult to prevent and control and that a scientific approach should be used to study them,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/29 of 3 December 1984 on the critical economic situation in Africa and the exacerbating impact of the prolonged drought, desertification and other natural calamities on the development process and the management of the environment,

Noting with interest the decision of the Government of Cameroon to organize, in the near future, an international scientific conference on the problems of toxic and lethal gas leaks, which would bring together national and international scientists, with a view to identifying the causes, periodicity and impact of such gas leaks in order to prevent such phenomena,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Cameroon for taking the initiative of organizing this scientific conference whose conclusions will benefit the international community as a whole and, therefore wholeheartedly supports this decision;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to make all appropriate arrangements to assist the Government of Cameroon in organizing the conference;

3. Urges the United Nations Development Programme to allocate adequate additional resources to permit the holding of the conference;

4. Appeals to the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the organizations of the United Nations system such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations University as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support actively the Government of Cameroon in organizing this international scientific conference;

5. Urges the international community and bilateral and multilateral donor countries to assist countries affected or likely to be affected by similar natural disasters in setting up an early warning system;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to submit to the next ordinary session of the Commission a report on the conclusions and recommendations of the scientific conference.

ES-2/4. Review and assessment of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting with appreciation the positive outcome of the thirteenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly as reflected in the unanimous adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 9/ as well as the strong expression of support and commitment by the international community to assist Africa's efforts in achieving recovery and long-term development,

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9/ A/RES/S-13/2.

Having considered the report of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa on the Preliminary review and assessment of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, 10/

Convinced of the need to maintain the momentum generated by the special session and to initiate prompt follow-up actions to ensure the effective implementation of the United nations Programme of Action,

1. Strongly urges member States to implement speedily and fully the measures and policy reforms which they committed themselves to in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 11/

2. Calls upon the international community to ensure the successful implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development by fully honouring their commitments as embodied therein;

3. Further calls upon each member State to immediately establish the appropriate follow-up machineries that would help to mobilize internal resources and secure firm commitments from development partners, ensure that commitments are met and exert the necessary pressure for meeting such commitments;

4. Requests all African subregional and regional organizations to fully reflect the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery in their operations and to facilitate their implementation;

5. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his indefatigable efforts to ensure the full and effective participation of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action and to facilitate the successful implementation of the Programme;

6. Welcomes the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of a high-level Steering Committee at United Nations Headquarters which will report directly to him and will be responsible for organizing and stimulating action by the United Nations required for the effective implementation of the Programme, promoting productive consultations with the international community, reviewing and reporting on developments and proposing such other initiatives as may be appropriate;

7. Also welcomes the establishment by the United Nations Steering Committee of an inter-agency Task Force on the follow-up to the United Nations Programme of Action under the auspices of ECA to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the Programme;

10/ E/ECA/ECM.2/2.
11/ A/40/666.

8. Expresses its appreciation to the Executive Secretary of ECA for ECA's effective contributions to the preparations for the special session and for the exemplary co-operation with the Organization of African Unity in this regard;

9. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of ECA to further intensify his efforts in assisting member States in the successful implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery;

10. Invites member States to complete urgently and thoroughly the ECA questionnaire on the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and requests the Executive Secretary of Economic Commission for Africa to prepare on the basis of this questionnaire, an in-depth and comprehensive report thereon for consideration by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its ordinary session in April 1987, the Steering Committee of the Organization of African Unity and by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in 1987;

11. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to submit periodic reports to the Conference of Ministers on the status of and progress in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery.

ES-2/5. UNDP special assistance to the member States of the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC)

The Conference of Ministers,

Having examined the broad outlines of the Regional Programme for the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle (1987-1991), 12/ jointly prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme,

Considering that priority should be accorded to the critical economic sectors identified in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, 13/

Deeply concerned about the intensification of South Africa's destabilization policy against the SADCC member States, which seriously threatens these States,

Aware in particular that the SADCC member States would require special assistance programmes to deal with the effects of such destabilization policy on their social and economic development prospects,

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12/ E/ECA/ECM.2/4.
13/ A/40/666.

1. Appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to give special consideration in allocating its resources so as to take into account the special needs of the SADCC member States in their efforts to counteract South Africa's destabilization activities;

2. Calls upon the United Nations Development Programme to assist the SADCC member States in developing alternative transport routes and trading outlets to those passing through South Africa such as the Beira corridor, limpopo line, nacala line, the Tanzania-Zambia railway line (TAZARA) and the Benguela railway line;

3 Further calls upon the United Nations Development Programme to assist the SADCC member States in the development of the required manpower and technical skills to cope with this problem.

ES-2/6. Support to the Indian Ocean Commission

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the need to undertake urgently action with regard to the measures spelt out in the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa 14/ and the Final Act of Lagos 15/ so as to attain speedily the objectives of collective self-reliance and the self-sustained development and economic growth of African countries,

Aware of the cardinal importance which the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos give to the promotion of intra-African trade which provides one of the bases for the African strategy on socio-economic development and collective self-reliance,

Further aware of the need to give increased support to subregional groupings in Africa and strengthen them with a view to establishing an African Common Market between now and the year 2000 as recommended by the Lagos Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind the important contribution of the Indian Ocean Commission within the framework of the socio-economic development of member countries,

Noting the imperative need to continue to assist existing organizations to develop and establish links between the various economic groupings to facilitate the gradual establishment of an African Common Market,

Further aware of the fact that the said Commission could greatly contribute to the expansion of intra-African trade if it benefitted from encouragement and assistance of international organizations such as the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme,

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14/ A/S-11/14 annex I.
15/ A/S-11/14 annex II.

1. Urgently appeals to all the organizations of the United Nations system and more particularly to the Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Development Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Civil Aviation Organization, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, World Meteorological Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, International Maritime Organization and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to give their assistance to the Indian Ocean Commission to enable it strengthen the economic and social integration of the subregion;

2. Calls for this purpose, upon these agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to give their support to the Commission for the efforts it makes to mobilize the necessary external technical and financial assistance to carry out successfully its activities in this take-off stage, particularly in the fields of cyclone forecast and emergency relief systems, opening up of air space and sea routes, the development of research in food, agriculture and industry and in the trade of goods and commodities;

3. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to provide assistance so as to enable the Indian Ocean Commission attain effectively its development objectives.

ES-2/7. Support to the African regional and subregional organizations

The Conference of Ministers,

Conscious of the important role of regional and subregional organizations in enhancing the process of economic growth and development within the African continent,

Aware of the commitment of the United Nations Development Programme to the success of these organizations as reflected in document E/ECA/ECM.2/4 - Draft Regional Programme for the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle (1987-1991) in fostering economic integration,

1. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to give technical and financial assistance to African regional and subregional organizations of economic integration and to give priority to projects and programmes submitted by the latter in so far as they reflect the priority needs of the member States, in accordance with the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990, 16/ and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990. 17/

16/ A/RES/S-13/2.
17/ A/40/666.

Annex I

Message of condolences and solidarity to the Government and people of Cameroon on the tragic disaster of Nyos Lake

YAOUNDE (CAMEROON)

TO HIS EXCELLENCY MR. PAUL BIYA PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

FROM ECA MINISTERS OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MEETING IN AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION AT THE ECA HEADQUARTERS IN ADDIS ABABA PARA WITH THE TYPICALLY AFRICAN HOSPITALITY ACCORDED THEM DURING THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THEIR CONFERENCE IN YAOUNDE LAST APRIL STILL FRESH IN THEIR MINDS, DEEPLY TOUCHED BY THE TRAGIC EVENTS THAT OCCURED IN CAMEROON FROM 22 - 23 AUGUST, 1986 CAUSED BY TOXIC GAS ESCAPING FROM LAKE NYOS; AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THIS RESULTED IN A GREAT LOSS OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL LIVES; THAT THE FORCES OF NATURE, SUCH AS CYCLONES, EARTH QUAKES, DROUGHT, VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS AND NOW TOXIC GAS LEAKAGE, CONTRIBUTE TO AGGRAVATING SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND IMPEDE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CONTINENT, WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SOLIDARITY WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF CAMEROON IN THE EFFORTS MADE TO ALLEVIATE THE EFFECTS OF THESE NATURAL DISASTERS. WE ALSO EXPRESS OUR DEEP SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON TO PERSUE RELENTLESSLY ITS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP ITS ECONOMY PARA PLASE ACCEPT YOUR EXCELLENCY THE RENEWED ASSURANCE OF OUR HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

ELIZABETH TANKEU
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE PLAN OF CAMEROON
AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Annex II

Message of congratulations to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Javier Perez de Cuellar on his recovery from his recent illness and re-election for the second term as Secretary-General of the United Nations

UNATIONS, NEW YORK

TO HIS EXCELLENCY JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR FROM ECA MINISTERS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING MEETING IN AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION AT THE ECA HEADQUARTERS IN ADDIS ABABA. THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING SINCE YOU WERE UNANIMOUSLY REELECTED TO THE DISTINGUISHED POST OF SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR ANOTHER FIVE YEAR TERM. WE WISH TO EXTEND OUR HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR WELL DESERVED REELECTION WHICH IN OUR OPINION IS WITHOUT ANY DOUBT PROOF OF THE RECOGNATION OF THE QUALITIES YOU DISPLAYED DURING YOUR FIRST TERM OF OFFICE AS HEAD OF ALL THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. IN THIS REGARD, WE WOULD LIKE TO RECALL WITH SATISFACTION AND GRATITUTDE THE DECISIVE ACTIONS YOU UNDERTOOK IN ORDER TO MAKE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MORE AWARE OF THE CRITICAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION FACING OUR CONTINENT. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECALL THE VITAL ROLE YOU PLAYED IN ENSURING THE SUCCESS OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA DURING WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT YOU WILL ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAMME. PLEASE ACCEPT MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL OUR BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESS IN THE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR IMPORTANT AND DELICATE DUTIES AS WELL AS THE RENEWED ASSURANCE OF OUR HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

ELIZABETH TANKEU
MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE PLAN OF CAMEROON AND
CURRENT CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR AFRICA